MHS does weapon search, finds weed. PAGE 2
Man in fatal pedestrian incident released on bail. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

'NMI economy needs to diversify'

By JON PEREZ
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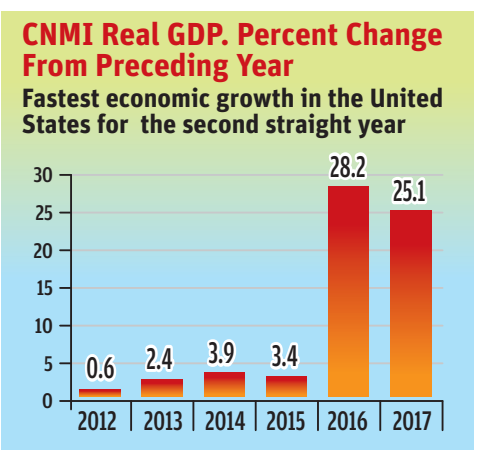
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres received good news yesterday about the robust 25.1-percent growth in the Commonwealth's gross domestic product, as released by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis. That made the Commonwealth one of the fastest economies among U.S. states and territories for the second straight year.



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Arroyo welcomed the news, but also cautioned the Commonwealth not to be overly reliant on a single industry and make an effort to attract other investors to sustain today's progress.

See ECONOMY on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, left, reviews the 2017 GDP estimates for the CNMI with Bureau of Economic Analysis director Brian C. Moyer on Thursday morning at the Office of the Governor. Others in the meeting were Secretary of Commerce Mark O. Rabauliman and staff of the CNMI Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Arrivals surpass 600,000 in FY18

Arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota fell 14 percent to 43,924 visitors in September 2018, compared to 50,848 visitors received in September 2017.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, visitor arrivals for 2018 ending in September were 7-percent lower than fiscal year 2017 at 607,593 total visitors.

"For the last six years, the Marianas has experienced steady growth in arrivals, including several years of double-digit growth from Korea

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

CEC assures smooth, fair elections

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez assured yesterday that there will be a smooth and fair elections on Nov. 6.

Villagomez said there will be police officers and representatives of the Public Auditor Office and the Office of the Attorney General on election day and during the tabulation of ballots.

"The political parties have their own witnesses too," she said when asked to comment on the allegation of a support-

See CEC on Page 4

Website seeks tips on Luhk sisters

» Girls' grandfather welcomes FBI's move, prays for closure in the case

ON THE NET
www.luhksisters.org

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation launched yesterday a new website dedicated to locating sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, who have been missing for over seven years now.

Quitugua

According to the FBI, the website, www.luhksisters.org, will provide an easy way to submit tips and share information that could help solve the mystery behind the Luhk sisters' disappearance.

Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the girls, described the creation of the website as a good move on the part of the FBI because some people are scared of coming out in the open about what they know. With

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BUSINESS
After Canada legalizes pot, the pot industry eyes rest of the world.

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WORLD
An 18-year-old student strode into his vocational school in Crimea and opened fire.

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LIFE & STYLE
Michael Buble is shutting down rumors that he's going to retire from music.

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Local

MHS issues weapon search, finds weed

Marianas High School did a weapon search last week but found cannabis in a student's bag instead.

The school with the largest student population in the CNMI did the random weapon search in response to reports of students bringing weapons into the campus. Authorities found cannabis, instead, during the search.

"We had reasonable suspicion that there might be students…carrying a weapon around campus, so that is why we had that," explained MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera. "When we have reasonable suspicion, that is when we take action and see what needs to be done to keep students safe."

The discovery of cannabis in a student's bag was immediately reported to both the Department of Public Safety and the Public School System.

Based on *Saipan Tribune* archives, it was the second incident of cannabis being found in a school campus since the passage of Public Law 20-66, the local statute legalizing the use of recreational and medicinal cannabis.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted in a previous interview that cannabis remains a Schedule I drug under the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and that it would take about seven months to set up the five-member Cannabis Commission that will have oversight over marijuana in the CNMI.

Upon the creation and promulgation of the regulations on cannabis, it would take effect 10 days after its adoption and publication in the *Commonwealth Register.*

In an interview yesterday, interim Education commission Glenn Muña noted that, as far as PSS is concerned, cannabis remains a contraband.

Like Cabrera, Muña emphasized that student safety and security remains their priority. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Man in fatal pedestrian incident released on bail

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has allowed 30-year-old Esekiel Smith to post less than 10-percent of his original bail of $100,000 so he could be temporarily released from jail.

Smith, who allegedly killed a man and left him for dead by the side of the road in August, was allowed to post a $2,000 bail so he could be released to his third-party custodians.

Aside from posting bail, Smith is also mandated to return to court whenever required to do so, obey all Commonwealth and federal laws, surrender all travel documents, stay away from all seaports and airports, and abide by court issued curfew from 6am to 6pm.

However, Smith is required to surrender his passport to the court. If he violates any of the court's conditions, he or his custodians will be required to post a $98,000 unsecured or appearance bond.

Smith's pretrial conference is set for Dec. 19, 2018, and his jury trial is set for March 11, 2019.

Smith is represented by Office of the Public Defender's Jean Pierre Nogues and the government is represented by chief prosecutor Michelle Harris.

During the bail modification hearing yesterday, the mother of the victim, who was present, shed tears upon hearing that Smith would be released temporarily to third-party custodians.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, on Aug. 19 at approximately 3:37am, Department of Public Safety received a call about an auto-pedestrian incident adjacent to the Commonwealth Utility Corp. power plant.

Upon arriving at the scene, officers met with the caller who had reported the incident.

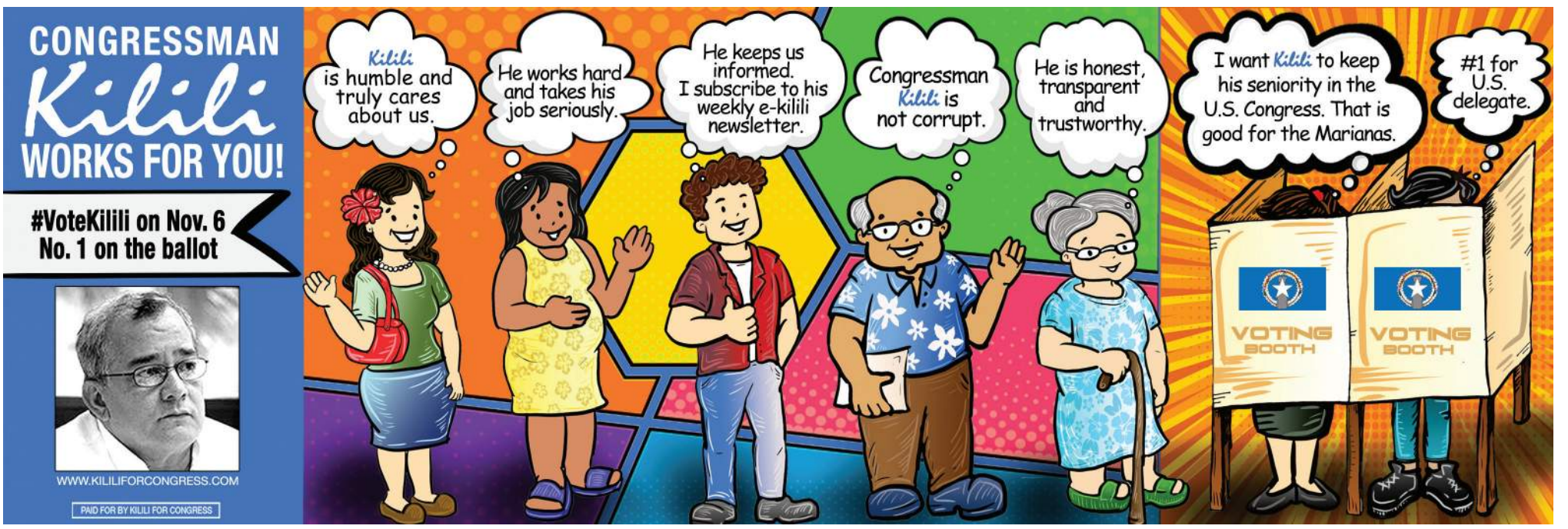
According to the caller, he was heading north when he noticed a man lying on the ground. He immediately stopped to call authorities.

DPS reported that the victim had noticeable injuries, was unconscious, and was partially lying on the shoulder of the northbound outer lane.

Medics arrived shortly after and rushed the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead at 4:01am.

According to DPS, further investigation uncovered that the victim had been involved in a disturbance earlier Saturday evening in San Vicente where he sustained injuries from an altercation with a family member and was rushed to CHC, together with the family member. The two had another altercation in the hospital and the victim left on foot at 1:44am on Sunday. That's when he was hit by a car, allegedly driven by Smith.

On Aug. 20, at 2:32pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio set Smith's bail at $100,000 for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license, failure to exercise due care, leaving the scene of an accident without rendering assistance, and homicide by vehicle.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ECONOMY

From Page 1

"The 25.1-percent increase in GDP is still phenomenal and, from the CNMI's perspective, is a huge increase, especially after coming out from the hard times brought by the closure of garment factories before," Arroyo said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's BEA report said the CNMI economy grew by 25.1 percent in 2017 based on the gross domestic product estimates.

GDP is the measurement of the overall economic activity that includes private and public consumption, government outlays, investments, and construction costs while adding exports and subtracting the imports.

Arroyo said Imperial Pacific Resort's casino operations was a major factor. "The injection of the new casino industry made a big difference and was a huge boost to the local economy. …We can also see its impact with the tourist numbers also going up, driven by the casino."

"There's also boom in real estate investments and the construction sector. There were a lot of renovations happening with existing properties and some are being improved to attract new tenants in the last two years that I've been on the island," said Arroyo, who has also been with Bank of Hawaii.

Arroyo, who previously worked at Bank Pacific and also a former CEO of Guam credit union Coast 360, said there has been an increase in the cost of residential properties in general. "IPI has also been looking for properties for the housing of their employees and other staff. A lot are also driven by the low income and tax credits that are being made available."

The 30-year veteran of the banking sector, however, cautioned that the CNMI must not rely on a single industry like the casino or tourism. "The CNMI economy's growth depends on how well the casino does for the island. It is currently driven by a sole industry. This is how the CNMI's economy is kind of being operated."

"It will have a great effect in case the casino falters. Like the times of the garment industry, there's no other industry to provide the economic boost going. Diversifying the economy is the way to sustain the economic gains. The government must look for other industries and investors to come in."

BEA report

BEA director Brian C. Moyer said their report is based on revised estimates of GDP where the CNMI's increased by 25.1 percent in 2017 after experiencing a 28.2-percent jump in 2016, making the Commonwealth one of the fastest economies among U.S. states and territories for the second straight year. "For comparison, real GDP for the U.S. (excluding territories) increased by 2.2 percent in 2017 after increasing 1.6 percent in 2016."

BEA, in its report, said service exports were a huge factor in the CNMI economy's growth as evident in the upward trend of tourist arrivals, thus the increase in visitor spending on the islands.

The increase in service exports offset the decline in private fixed investments, which went down by 8.9 percent after double-digit numbers for three consecutive years. Business spending on construction and other equipment remains high, helped in part by the ongoing construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort on Saipan.

BEA's GDP estimates also showed the private sector being the source of the accommodations and amusement sector the largest contributor that reflected in the growth in tourism and the output of the casino industry.

"The compensation-by-industry estimates, measured in current dollars, show trends in compensation for major industries. Total compensation increased in 2016, reflecting increases in all sectors… The largest increase was in the accommodations and amusement sector," the report said.

The report added that the estimates would be extended and improved following an agreement between the BEA and the Office of Insular Affairs. "The information provided by the CNMI government will continue to be critical to the successful production of these estimates."

Mixed outlook

Small business owner Cecille Kamama sees a positive future for the CNMI with the improving economy, which would be felt slowly. "It's like a chain reaction. We'll soon feel the positive effects of this growth. You can see it with a lot of construction activity going on aside from the casino-hotel that's being built."

"But for our business, it is more reliant on locals and foreign workers. We're not tourism-based. That's why we can't do any big expansion and we just keep the inventory that we have since it would have a big impact for us if the foreign workers would leave. We used to bring containers in shipping our goods, but we have to scale down due to the uncertainty with the foreign workers," added Kamama, who owns Blue Haus in Garapan.

Another small business owner, who requested not to be named, said they had already felt the improving economy in 2016 due to the increase in their sales. "We have different markets here, mostly locals, but tourism is getting stronger."

"Since September of this year, things are picking up and we are looking forward to higher sales in the coming months. The numbers are good on tourist arrivals from China and Korea, with Japan slowly picking up," added the investor, who is part of a group that operates a bakeshop and restaurant.

But for Kris, a local employee who also asked for anonymity, the improving economy comes with a price. "The prices of basic commodities are rising and rent costs also increased. Hopefully, minimum wage earners like us would soon feel the effects of the economic boom."

Local officials elated

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led local officials that celebrated the report, saying that the CNMI economy had been experiencing five straight years of economic growth since 2012 and noted how far the Commonwealth had come.

"To go from where we were when our economy was declining every year since 2004 to where we are now, in which we see a 25.1 percent increase in 2017 and the fastest in the country for the second straight year is remarkable. This progress truly is a testament to the collaboration between the private sector, our government, and our entire community," said Torres.

"Those dark days in our economy were not too long ago and I know we all remember those days. Our tourism industry was struggling with low arrival numbers, large and small businesses were struggling, rolling blackouts, but more importantly, many of our friends and families were struggling to make ends meet," he added.

"But now we see an economy that has provided more opportunities for everyone. People now have more confidence to purchase and invest in things they want."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the information provided by BEA is valuable since it gives government officials the feedback needed in shaping local policies and the public an idea of where the economy is going.

"One improvement would be to make these releases more real time. If we could move to more frequent, quarterly updates of GDP, then policy-makers here in the CNMI would be that much better equipped to manage the local government finances," said Sablan.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the House Ways and Means Committee chairman, said the CNMI's economic growth gives the government an increase in resources for critical programs and services.

"The latest GDP report is a reaffirmation of the progress we have been seeing in the CNMI. To see such an exponential growth for the second straight year is very telling of what we can achieve when leadership is united and focused on the greater good," said Demapan. "The data clearly tells us that the people of the CNMI are in a much better place today. This is definitely a direction that we want to sustain in the years to come."

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said the CNMI's economic growth is a testament of the administration's economic agenda that also put forward small businesses, entrepreneurship, and the increased purchasing power of local residents.

Finance chief Larrisa Larson added the data given by BEA is the result of the hard work and collaboration by local officials, but their job is not yet done as they also need to secure the future of the CNMI's next generation.

"These numbers are a reflection of the hard work and the collaboration of the administration and the Legislature to rebuild our economy and to sustain it for future generations to come. There is still a lot of work to do, but we are so excited to finally see the results of some very difficult but necessary decisions for our future."

CEC

From Page 1

er of gubernatorial candidate who has been stating in social media that he believes that this coming election "will be the dirtiest."

Villagomez said during the counting of votes, candidate representatives will witness it at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

She said the counting machines are in good condition and election rules and regulations are fair.

She said the CEC commissioners will be the tabulators and that no other people will be touching the ballots except CEC staff when they help to feed the machines.

She said the commissioners will be resolving the rejected ballots.

Villagomez said elections in the CNMI are historically smooth, orderly, and fair.

It is the second time that Villagomez will oversee an election as the CEC executive director in the CNMI. The last time was during the 2016 election. She has been employed with CEC for 30 years now.

CEC board chair pro tem Jesus I. Sablan agreed with Villagomez that it will be smooth and fair election.

Sablan said they always get criticized, but as with the previous elections, they will just act according to CEC's rules and regulations.

LUHK

From Page 1

this website, it's going to be anonymous.

Quitugua said that, with the website, people can come provide information via the website instead of becoming known as the one who gave the tip.

He said this way makes it more accessible and easy for tips and information.

"The family is still praying that somebody will come out and give information to close this case. It's very painful for the family," Quitugua said.

In its press release yesterday, FBI encouraged anyone with any information to visit the site and share information—"keeping in mind that no tip is too small."

The FBI said it remains dedicated to working with the Department of Public Safety to find the missing girls and is urging anyone in the community who has knowledge of the matter to visit the website or contact the FBI's Saipan office at (670) 322-6934.

Faloma and Maleina, who were ages 10 and 9 at the time of their disappearance, were last seen waiting at a bus stop shelter near their home in As Teo, Saipan on the morning of May 25, 2011.

The sisters' disappearance sparked a monthlong search conducted by FBI, DPS, and other law enforcement agencies as well as civilian volunteers on Saipan, but no trace was found on their whereabouts.

ARRIVALS

From Page 1

and China," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "This year has seen the stabilization of Korea after some fierce competition among low-cost carriers the last few years, and it has also been an extremely challenging one due to the cessation of direct flights from Japan. Basically, arrivals rates now are about the same year as they were at the beginning of 2017."

Arrivals from China increased 5 percent compared to September 2017 to 18,887 visitors. With 17 regular charter flights to the Marianas each week, China also marked 3-percent growth for the fiscal year at 236,577 visitors, retaining its position as the second largest source market of the destination. In September the MVA launched various marketing programs and activities in the China market, including ShapeGirl kickoff event in Hangzhou, video and underground advertising, Qujing Ironman 70.3 promotions, and Hong Kong Sports Expo, targeting a more specific audience in select regional markets. From mainland China, direct flight service to the Marianas is available from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou. HK Express and Hong Kong Airlines also provide service from Hong Kong.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 13 percent to 22,339 visitors in September, although the country is the top-performing source market for the destination. Largely due to fewer flights from both Seoul-Incheon and Busan compared to the previous year, arrivals from Korea fell 11 percent in fiscal year 2018 to 295,260 visitors. Targeted marketing by MVA's Korea representative office is expected to continue stabilizing arrivals from Korea.

Following a temporary boost with 28 summer charter flights, arrivals from Japan fell 89 percent in September to 449 visitors and dropped 25 percent on the year to 39,238 total arrivals. Until Skymark Airlines launches its anticipated daily flights from Japan in 2019, the MVA is aggressively promoting travel to Saipan from Japan via Seoul with enhanced marketing and new travel packages offered by major travel agencies, including JTB, H.I.S., and KNT. In addition, a new promotion with Expedia to run from Nov. 1 to Dec. 12 will promote travel to the Marianas via Seoul-Incheon and Guam, targeting FIT customers who make their own travel bookings.

"Japan remains a vital part of our market diversification strategy. Our focus is to maintain our industry relationships, maintain presence of mind in the travelling public in Japan, and pursue charter flight opportunities until direct flights resume next year," said Concepcion.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CEC adopts final list of polls for Nov. 6 election

The Commonwealth Election Commission board adopted yesterday the final designated polling places for the Nov. 6 general election.

The six CEC commissioners unanimously approved the final designated polling places for Saipan, Tinian and Aguiguan, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

CEC board chair pro tem Jesus I. Sablan presided over the meeting.

The polling sites will open on Nov. 6 at 7am and close at 7pm.

For Tinian and Aguiguan, the site will be at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, while on Rota it will be at the Rota Northern Marianas College room B-2.

For the Northern Islands, it will be on Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrigan.

For Saipan, the polling sites are as follow:

- Precinct 1A (San Antonio area)—Hopwood Junior High School cafeteria
- Precinct IB-1 and IB-2 (San Vicente/Dandan areas)—Dandan Middle School cafeteria
- Precinct 1C (Koblerville area)—Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe areas)—Joeten Kiyu Public Library
- Precinct 3A (San Jose/Oleai areas)—Oleai Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 3B-1 and 3B-2 (Garapan areas)—Garapan Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 4A (Tanapag area)—Tanapag Middle School cafeteria
- Precinct 4B (San Roque/As Matuis areas)—Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill area)—Jesus P. Mafnas Legislative Building
- Precinct 5-1 and 5-2 (Kagman area)—Kagman Elementary School cafeteria

CEC executive director Julita A. Arriola is reminding voters to bring with them an identification card with a picture.

Meanwhile, the CEC announced that early voting for Saipan, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Rota will commence on Tuesday, Oct. 30, and end on Nov. 5.

The polling places for all three senatorial districts will open at 8:30am and close at 4pm each day, inclusive of weekends and holidays.

For Saipan, the designated polling place is at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

For Tinian, it will be at the Tinian-NMC room D in San Jose.

On Rota, the polling site will be at the Rota-NMC room B-2 in Songsong. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

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Spotlight focuses on length of public land leases

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

As tourism continues to be the economic driver of the CNMI, foreign investors continue to keep an eye on the islands to see if it makes sense setting up business here.

A local businessman once said that many U.S. restaurant chains wants to open shop on Saipan, but the problem was the shortage of the labor pool. The workforce problem was addressed when House Resolution 5956 or the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 was signed into law in July this year by President Donald Trump.

The law raised the CW-1 visa to 13,000 and extended the foreign worker program, called the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program, through 2029.

Another challenge that foreign investors is looking at is the prolonged pendency of Senate Bill 20-25 that seeks to extend the lease of public lands from 40 years—25 years with up to an extension of 15 years—to 75 years—40 years with up to a 35-year extension; it is still under review by the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs.

The hotels that have expiring leases on public land are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

Rep. Donald Barcinas (Ind-Saipan) said that public lands are the best resource of the CNMI. "Leasing out public lands to quality foreign investors is good for the economy and the people. It's a rare resource that is valuable to our people and people must get good value out of their land."

"I am for foreign investment but only the quality investors that would invest here properly. Those investors that will not negatively impact the existing infrastructures and the overall condition of the environment. The hotels with expiring leases…have proven their worth. They have helped build the economy and given people jobs. We should prioritize the investors that have been with us over the years for this will be a good example for future investors," he added.

Rep. Donald Barcinas believes that the people of the CNMI should get the good value out of the public land leases. BEA CABRERA

Last Sept. 30, longtime investor Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. ended its 40-year-old business with the CNMI due to the non-renewal of their lease by the Department of Public Lands. KPI owned the Mariana Resort & Spa, including the Mandi Asian Spa, the go-kart racing facility, and the Mariana Country Club golf course. They were also in charge of operating the public swimming pool.

In a statement released by KPS last month, it stated that the terms of the request for proposal released by DPL were not feasible for them to submit their own bid that could have extended their land lease. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC was the lone bidder for the Marpi properties.

Barcinas said that in the event he gets a seat in the House of Representatives again, he would push for changes in how public land leases are administered. "I want a law that is decisive and consistent with how we manage public lands. To do this, I don't think that the fiduciary duty should only be lodged on one person such as the DPL secretary. Do we want a DPL with only the secretary having the fiduciary duty and the people's public land all in one hand and that you can negotiate by yourself?" he asked.

"It would be better if DPL has an elected board like the [Marianas Visitors Authority] and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.," he added.

Election Precinct II – Club
Committee to Re-elect Demapan/Sablan
Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 502695, Saipan MP 96950

Precinct 2 Club Officers:
Joseph Castro Reyes, *Chairman*
Vincent "Pacho" P. Sablan, *Vice-Chairman*
Apolonia K. Nepaial, *Treasurer*
Ignacia P. Cruz, *Secretary*

October 19, 2018

To Families and Friends, most especially in Election Precinct 2.

By now, I am sure that everyone has had the opportunity to analyze the aims and objectives of the candidates vying for seats to the 21st CNMI House of Representatives.

We've heard it, and we've seen it, other candidates who will talk endlessly but without substance. The Depaman/Sablan tandem talks with values and brings results. That is exemplary "LEADERSHIP."

Both have consistently demonstrated that they are working for the people that elected them into office. Your concerns are their priorities.

Let's put Ralph Sablan Demapan and John Paul Sablan (Pacho) back into office again together with ALL their GOP running mates by voting for them on November 6th.

Joseph Castro Reyes
Chairman

Man to plead guilty to shooting wife

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 50-year-old man who allegedly shot his wife several times will plead guilty to the charges against him.

A change of plea hearing was supposed to be held yesterday for 50-year-old Norbert Blas Camacho for allegedly shooting his wife in December 2017. The hearing was moved to Nov. 1, 2018.

After pleading guilty, Camacho will be subjected to an assessment by the Commonwealth Guidance Center and shall submit to examinations and will participate in courses of treatment, including drug and substance abuse treatment.

Camacho will also pay restitution.

He will also not be allowed to patronize bars or places where alcohol is served. Camacho is also prohibited from consuming any alcoholic drinks.

Camacho will also be required to submit to random blood tests, urine tests, breath tests, or similar test to monitor his compliance.

Camacho is mandated to follow all local and federal laws and failure to comply with all the conditions of his probation will result in revocation of his probation.

During his preliminary hearing back in December, Camacho was charged with attempted first-degree murder (domestic violence), aggravated assault and battery (domestic violence), assault with a dangerous weapon (domestic violence), and disturbing the peace (domestic violence).

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Camacho was arrested for allegedly shooting his wife with a rifle following an argument inside their house along Anonas Drive in Kagman back in December 2017.

FSM to name Diego as honorary FSM consul

Federated States of Micronesia president Peter M. Christian requests the presence of FSM citizens and friends to join him and his delegation on Saturday, Oct. 20, starting at 5pm, at the Garapan Central Park, when he commissions former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente as the new FSM honorary consul to the CNMI. ***(PR)***

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast Buffet $19 **Sunday Brunch** *Reg. $32 Ad/$16 Ch (Local: $28 Ad/$14 Ch)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood Night*** *Reg. $40 Ad/$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg. $22 Ad/$11 Ch (Local: $18 Ad/$9 Ch)* ***Seafood Night*** *Reg. $40 Ad/$$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg. $22 Ad/$11 Ch (Local: $18 Ad/$9 Ch)* ***Seafood Night*** *Reg. $40 Ad/$$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood Night*** *Reg. $40 Ad/$$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/ $15 Ch)*

Adult: 12 yrs and up | Child: 6-11 yrs | Infant: 5 yrs and under • EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

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For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Duenas is found not guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man accused of slapping a man who was tailgating him was found not guilty of charges on Wednesday in Superior Court.

At the conclusion of the bench trial, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho found 30-year-old Ryan Dueñas not guilty of charges filed against him, saying that Dueñas' recollection of events and his testimony was more credible than the victim's.

Camacho said he found numerous inconsistencies in the testimony of the victim.

According to Camacho, the victim's version of the events proved that he was actually aggressively tailgating Dueñas, even after Dueñas made the effort to speed up and create a distance between his white pickup truck and the brown pickup truck that was following him.

The Superior Court also ruled in favor of Dueñas and concluded that he was merely using self-defense to repel the victim when he slapped him.

The Superior Court also concluded that the government failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Duenas committed the offense of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

On or about Feb. 15, 2018, Duenas allegedly slapped another man in his vehicle for driving too close behind him, allegedly nearly hitting the back of his vehicle, in Chalan Kiya Drive.

During the bench trial, Dueñas testified that he thought the victim was falling asleep and he was also scared that the victim was a threat.

Dueñas told the court that after he got out of his vehicle and confronted the victim, the victim allegedly threw a punch that Dueñas dodged and he retaliated with a slap to the right side of the victim's face.

According to the victim's testimony, he did not throw the first punch and that he was just sitting in his vehicle when Dueñas approached him.

The victim said that Dueñas had come equipped with a machete but Dueñas said he had a machete in his vehicle but he did not bring it with him when he confronted the victim.

A witness of the prosecution, Dueñas' brother, said that he did not see a punch thrown by Dueñas nor did he see Dueñas back up as to dodge a punch during the altercation.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our best uncle ever, Uncle A.J. We love you and wish you the best on your birthday and always. Love from Ulyana and Keliah.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 6th birthday to Jihan, the brightest and shiniest star in our lives! With lots of love, mom, dad, and your big sisters.

EXPORTING OPPORTUNITIES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, former Guam public auditor and former senator Doris Flores Brooks, CNMI House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), and Guam Sen. Wil Castro meet to discuss agricultural exporting opportunities and other partnerships between Guam and the Northern Marianas.

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*2018 CIVIC LX MT Retail price $22,995 with 20% down. 3% APR at 60 payments of $330.53 or $152.56 per paycheck at 26 pay periods per year on approved credit. Total deferred $19,832.40.

MVA inks MOU with Korea sports foundation

In line with its promotional strategy to grow awareness of the Marianas as a sports tourism destination, the Marianas Visitors Authority signed an MOU with Korea Sports Promotion Foundation on Sept. 5, 2018, in Seoul.

"We are very excited about our new MOU with the prestigious Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, which opens the door to publicize the 2019 Saipan Marathon and hopefully more of the sporting events we host here in the beautiful Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, who executed the MOU with Korea Sports Promotion Foundation CEO Jae-Kee Choo at Olympic Hall in Seoul. "The purpose of the agreement is to activate, through a cooperative partnership, KSPO's National Fitness Award Program to expand tourism to the Marianas. The MOU facilitates MVA's collaboration with KSPO to promote the Saipan Marathon to Koreans wanting to challenge their physical strength by visiting our leisure destination."

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion executes an MOU with CEO Jae-Kee Choo of Korea Sports Promotion Foundation on Sept. 5, 2018, in Seoul, Korea. MVA

The first promotion undertaken through the agreement will involve 20 people selected from the National Fitness Award Program during November and December. They will participate in the 14th Saipan Marathon, which will be held on March 9, 2019. With support from the National Fitness Award Program, KSPO will utilize its marketing channels to generate news and paid/unpaid media to maximize exposure of the Marianas and Saipan Marathon for the promotion period. As part of the exposure, an interview of Concepcion was featured on MBN TV Channel. It included a video of Saipan Marathon and introduced the Marianas.

Saipan Marathon 2019 is promoted online by Korea Sports Promotion under an MOU executed with the Marianas Visitors Authority in September 2018. MVA

The MOU agreement will provide a basis for the MVA to expand its cooperation with KSPO for greater business growth. The terms will be reassessed yearly and further MOUs could also involve promotion of various other Marianas' sports events, such as Tagaman triathlon, Rota Blue triathlon, and Hell of the Marianas. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, third right, meets with Korea Sports Promotion Foundation on Sept. 5, 2018, in Seoul, Korea, to execute an MOU for the promotion of Saipan Marathon 2019. MVA

RGA chair endorses Torres' re-election

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' campaign for governor has been endorsed by Republican Governors Association chair Bill Haslam, who is also governor of Tennessee.

"Since taking office, Gov. Ralph Torres has been a strong leader for workforce development, expanded opportunity, and government reform in the Northern Mariana Islands," said Haslam. "In his second term, [Torres] will continue his work to spur job growth, better wages, and improved education for the people of the Commonwealth. I am proud to support Gov. Ralph Torres to keep leading the Northern Mariana Islands forward."

Haslam

In his response, Torres said: "I am honored receive the support of RGA Chairman Governor Bill Haslam, a committed conservative leader and a proven leader. …I am proud of the work my administration has done to improve life for all the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and I look forward to continuing our work in a second term as governor." ***(PR)***

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Kevin's new location: Ground Floor, north side of Gold Beach Hotel, Beach Road, Garapan

DPW to begin $2.78M construction on Kannat Tabla road

With the close-out of the Kannat Tabla hazard mitigation assessment phase, the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works recently announced $2,796,588 to begin the construction phase of Kannat Tabla road.

According to Public Works Secretary James Ada, the project gained momentum through Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' initiative to form a task force for hazard mitigation soon after the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor in August 2016.

"We began our work immediately and worked collaboratively with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Lands, the Public Assistance Office, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. This is when we really started to piece together all these critical infrastructural improvements and began the process and applied for assistance with [the Federal Emergency management Agency]," Ada said.

Documents for procurement have already been signed by Ada's office and the project will be advertised in the next week to expedite the ITB process.

Highway engineer Gani Salazar said that after Typhoon Soudelor damaged many roads, the task force was able to secure approval from FEMA on June 26, 2016, to begin Phase One of the project.

"With the completion of Phase One and after the archaeological study was completed, results were put in the media for public comment. With this now completed, we found out that now we can move into the construction phase, which is funded 100 percent through FEMA," Salazar said, adding that one of the important points of Phase One was establishing the right-of-way positions of residents in the area.

Salazar noted that the long process ensured the accuracy of the project area from Kannat Tabla gardens to the CMS quarry and surrounding low-volume roads.

The benefit-cost analysis, he said, found that the project is a cost-effective benefit of over $18.9 million to the community over time.

Flood Plain administrator Ed Tmarsel added that assessment immediately began throughout the island, with assistance from the Capital Improvement Project office to complete the benefit cost analysis for the Kannat Tabla flood control and drainage project.

Tsmarsel stated that Phase One was an extensive assessment process that included an archaeological study and preliminary engineering designs, surveys and a considerable multi-agency collaborative effort that resulted in the cost-effectiveness and approval of the project.

"Phase One began with a 90/10 cost share with FEMA. Further FEMA cost adjustments for the mitigation portion of the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant program resulted in a 100/0 cost share. This enabled us to augment our structure by including concrete box culverts to the drainage system," Tsmarsel said.

Tmarsel further noted that the introduction of box culverts in place of HDPE or plastic pipes on critical sections of the roadway will eliminate erosion of bedding materials caused by groundwater migration to ensure structural stability and lack of settlement.

According to Virginia Villagomez, the governor's authorized representative the construction phase will significantly decrease environmental and economic impacts.

"Our office facilitated the assistance by encouraging DPW to apply for funding a flood control drainage system in the Kannat Tabla area necessary to mitigate the flooding and erosion during flash floods affecting the residents and the general public. The construction of a drainage system to divert water into an old quarry will reduce and eliminate flash floods and water eroding affecting the residents and the general public along Route 31," Villagomez said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is pleased that the CNMI government will shoulder no expenses under the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program from FEMA.

"I commend DPW, our PA team, and other partner agencies and our Precinct 5 representatives for their diligence in successfully securing this project and moving it into the construction stage. Hazard mitigation has helped us improve our current infrastructure and now this project will address stormwater runoff in the area and issues with the existing quarry and flooding concerns that residents have been waiting for and I ask our community to stay attuned to ongoing developments for the area in regard to this project," Torres said.

Rep. Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan) expressed his excitement to begin the construction phase of Kannat Tabla, noting his appreciation for the task force coming together and pushing the project through.

"I met with DPW and other agencies to find out the status of this project and I am glad that the road is at the point of being constructed for our constituents. Along with [Rep.] Larry Guerrero, we are excited to see it to completion," Aguon said.

The project's scope of work includes collecting stormwater runoff from the road and convey it to an existing quarry where it is expected to infiltrate. The project includes the construction of a 4-foot wide concrete swale to collect runoff and the installation of drainage pipes under the roadway. This also includes the installation of a series of catch basins to direct flows from the roadway into the drainage pipe, the relocation of certain power poles, removal of some vegetation, and adjustment of water lines to mitigate flooding problems, erosion, and run-off and control flash flooding on local roads and properties.

The project has been determined to be categorically excluded from the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and current completion date is set for August 5, 2019. ***(PR)***

MYPros to hand out awards at its anniversary

The Marianas Young Professionals, or MYPros, is inviting the public to its three-year anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

During this event, MYPros will honor and celebrate young professionals in the CNMI with awards in the categories for Young Professional of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and the Spotlight Award.

The nominees for this year's Spotlight Award are: Monique Boyer Sablan, Workforce Program coordinator and public information officer of the CNMI Scholarship Office; Tania David, assistant vice president of operations of the Bank of Guam; Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., operations supervisor of McDonald's Saipan; and press secretary Kevin Bautista of the Office of the Governor.

The nominees for Young Professional of the Year Award are James Lee, Marpac Distributors sales manager; Ben Jones, vice principal of discipline at Kagman High School; and Ashley Kost, Office of the Public Auditor's director of Investigations and legal counsel;

Saturday's event will have the theme of "Havana Nights," a celebration of Cuban food, a mojito station, a silent auction, and DJ Dice mixing all your favorite music from 6pm to 10pm. There will also be special performances so get your tickets now at Tribe Marianas for $45. ***(PR)***

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd pioneers the CNMI's first Chabot:

Obot.ai®

ObotAI aims to make each user's experience more personal and conversational when locating the islands' top restaurants, fun activities, or best beach spots. Platforms such as Facebook Messenger and WebChat are set to take the user's inquiries and general information requests about the CNMI.

What is ObotAI?

- ObotAI is a Google-based interactive, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chatbot system. It is multi-lingual and can respond in English, Chinese, Korean and Japanese languages, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.
- ObotAI is designed to efficiently handle general inquiries; the AI system can help businesses save on customer service costs by speeding up response times. Companies can then divert important man-hours to more essential business activities.

ObotAI is an evolving program – the more questions asked, the smarter it will be over time as more users interact with it. Each time ObotAI is asked a question, it learns how to respond to that question more accurately. Use your Google browser to log into the website below or scan the QR code to try this innovative system:

http://obot-ai.com/saipantravel/index.html

Together, let's explore the Chatbot world!

For more information about ObotAI program, please call us at 237-8300 or send an email to info@marianagrandservice.com

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd (Corporation of the former Mariana Resort & Spa) proudly welcomes ObotAI to its group of companies.

MVA membership meeting on Nov. 9

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on Nov. 9, 2018, at Royal Taga Ballroom, Saipan World Resort at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

Guest speakers will be from the MVA's offshore offices and will provide a recap of fiscal year 2017 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2019. Speakers will be the in-country managers: Irene Lee, Korea market; Florence Shi, China market; and Takashi Ichikura, Japan market.

"Our next membership meeting will be a review of the effectiveness of our strategies last fiscal year and a fairly detailed look at what's ahead for marketing and other programs with our available budget for the new fiscal year," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We encourage all members to attend this meeting, which also provides an important opportunity to dialogue with the MVA and network with other tourism industry professionals."

The meeting cost is $16 per person for MVA members and $20 per person for non-members. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. RSVP should be made by Nov. 1, 2018.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is $100 annually. Benefits include: business listing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Japan, Korea, China, Russia, Taiwan, and English; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in The Marianas and internationally; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and FAM tours; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA Board of Directors; and the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA. New and returning members for Fiscal Year 2019 beginning on Oct. 1, 2018, can register and pay on the MVA's English website at www.mymarianas.com.

To RSVP, to request a membership application, or for more information, contact the MVA Community Projects Division at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200. ***(MVA)***

MEETING WITH FOREIGN WORKERS
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, and Rep. Angel A. Demapan meet with some of the laid-off construction workers of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC yesterday at the Office of the Governor building on Capital Hill. JON PEREZ

UPCOMING EVENTS AT JKPL

If you haven't stopped by the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library recently, we have a lot of fun and exciting events coming up in October! Please see below for details:

■ Great Stories Club: This is a free book club for teens ages 13-18. We meet twice a month, and each month we discuss a different book. At the end of the club, participants will be able to keep the book! Sign up online (https://goo.gl/forms/P4jmBQbWC-Qpc4EBJ3) and join us for a time of food, fun, and books! The next book club will meet in December.

■ Motheread/Fatheread 20th Anniversary breakout sessions: Join us on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9am to 12pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library as we celebrate 20 years of increasing literacy in the CNMI. We will have breakout sessions that participants can visit as well as information on the Motheread/Fatheread literacy program.

■ Trunk or Treat: If you have not participated in or visited this event, do so this year for our 7th annual event. It will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot. To participate or for more information, visit our website at cnmilib.org or contact Omar Manacop or Rose Ulloa at (670) 235-7329/7323.

■ Golf Tournament: Enjoy golfing or know anyone who does? Then the 4th Annual Golf Tournament is perfect for you. To participate, buy a ticket at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. This event takes place on Saturday, Oct. 27. All proceeds benefit the library, its resource and collection development, and library programs. For more information, visit cnmilib.org.

Join teen advisory board

Attention all teens! Do you have ideas for programs and events at the library and want to help implement them? Do you want to influence the Young Adult collection at the library? Do you want to meet new people?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are welcome to join the free Joeten-Kiyu Public Library teen advisory board.

Why join the TAB? Besides making new friends, members will have the opportunity to brainstorm new and interesting programs and events for the library, as well as influence what the library purchases for the teen section! TAB members will meet regularly each month to socialize, brainstorm ideas, and eat snacks! Teens going into grades 7th-12th are invited to submit an application to join the TAB.

For more information or to ask questions, call the library at 235-READ and ask for Emily, or email her at emily.jkpl@gmail.com.

For more info

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu.

The library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 6pm; Saturday, 9am to 4pm; closed on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-18-022

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT
(W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline; connections to the existing waterlines; installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, flush hydrant, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **November 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-022, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 6 , 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

THE POSITION: INSTALLER/FINISHER

Number of Vacancies: 4
Job Description: Assemble and install furniture, partition, cubicles, all types of blinds; Install floor covering (carpet and tiles); Perform routine maintenance and determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed; Do other related duties and responsibilities.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least High School Graduate. With at least 2-years of relevant work experience as Installer. Must be willing to work flexible hours and can work outdoors.

Job Site: Msgr. Guerrero Rd. corner Kannat Tabla, San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and credentials to:

JAE GYU PARK
CEO/President
MECHILLE CORPORATION

Office Address: Msgr. Guerrero Rd. corner Kannat Tabla San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501568, Saipan, MP 96950, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: mechille.corp.gc@gmail.com
Telephone Number: (670) 234-1361

COTA to launch Fixed-Route Feeder Service

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is set to launch its Fixed-Route feeder service for route coverage in the Kagman area toward the Northern Mariana College, the southern villages of San Antonio and Koblerville to NMC, and northern areas of As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag to the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, beginning on Monday, Oct. 22.

Since the first public transit route was activated in April, more students and employees outside of the central area have been waiting for the second line to be implemented.

"With our initial route established and running, we can move forward with the recent $6.4 million awarded to COTA by the Federal Transit Administration for additional buses and bus shelters," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"This feeder service will assist with our transition to full service route services and we are all very excited. The procurement process is now the next crucial step and I ask our community to take advantage of the feeder service and thank the community for its patience moving forward," Torres added.

Torres said the overall goal is to alleviate poverty by removing the transportation barrier in more villages and provide affordable access to employment, childcare, education, and healthcare.

According to Alfreda Camacho, the special assistant for public transportation, the Fixed-Route feeder service will provide services from the northern, eastern and southern areas of Saipan to feed into the current Fixed Route Flame Tree Line 1A, which began in April.

The service will operate once a day, six days a week, excluding Sundays and all holiday and all vehicles are disability-accessible.

"The launch of the fixed route feeder service is COTA's commitment to the community that we are working diligently to continue the full implementation of the CNMI's first public transportation fixed route system. It is our every intent to ensure that the inclusion of the different areas on the island are accommodated to provide access to healthcare, leisure activities, education, and employment," Camacho said.

All feeder services will depart from their respective first stop at 6am. All prospective riders are reminded to arrive at the designated stop points five minutes before the indicated departure times and have the exact payment for services rendered.

Fare is $2 for general public (adults, youth ages 12+) $1 for youth ages 11 and below, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities Children ages 3 and below are free

Transfer onto the Fixed Route bus is free but ticket is only valid for 90 minutes

North to Paseo in Garapan

- As Matuis Bus Stop (corner of Tanko Dr. and Baina Dr.), 6am
- San Roque (near Welcome Supermarket), 6:06am
- Tanapag (near Mobil Tanapag), 6:11am to Paseo De Marianas

East to NMC

- Kagman (near New Kagman Market), 6am
- Kagman Community Center, 6:04am
- Kagman Health Center, 6:10am to NMC

South to NMC

- San Antonio (Community Guidance Center (Systems of Care), 6am
- Koblerville (near P&A Laundry), 6:06am
- Koblerville (near Gana Daycare Center), 6:09am to NMC

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the Fixed-Route Feeder Service may be forwarded to COTA at (670) 664-2682 or visit the office located at the Marianas Business Plaza, second floor, Suite 216, Susupe, Saipan. ***(PR)***

Family fun 'Day of Unity' on Saturday

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force are inviting members of the community to participate in the family fun event, the Day of Unity tomorrow, Oct. 20, 2018.

The Day of Unity, which is part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities in October, will be held from 11am to 3pm at the Garapan Central Park area.

It will feature a variety of kid-friendly games and activities including a bounce house, live entertainment, exhibits, as well as raffle prizes given out throughout the day. There will also be vendors selling lunch, as well as popular treats like ice cream and shave ice.

"With the Day of Unity, we hope to give the community an opportunity to come together to have fun and be more informed about domestic violence," said NMCADSV program manager and DVAM Planning Committee co-chair Angelyn N. Palacios.

"We believe it takes all of us to create a future without domestic violence and we want to help others understand what they can do to help their families and their community," said Palacios.

Palacios also noted that a variety of incentives including 200 T-shirts with the 2018 Domestic Violence Awareness Month theme for the CNMI "Support. Encourage. Empower." or "S.E.E. a Future Without Domestic Violence" will be given out to Day of Unity participants.

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org or contact FVTF at (670) 664-4583/4584.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, call 911 for emergency assistance, or call the CNMI's Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***

October happenings at American Memorial Park

American Memorial Park will hold the annual Wartime Halloween and once again invite the community to stop by for some Halloween fun. The activities will include:

Icons of World War II

Halloween does not just have to be about dressing up like famous characters we see in movies or read about in books. Sometimes forgotten are the regular people we see around us who are making a difference. During the Icons of World War II program, we will take children back in time to learn about Rosie the Riveter, an iconic symbol for working women during World War II, the servicemen who risked their lives to fight in the war, and will highlight a local baker on Saipan, who opened his bakery during hard times in 1944. The program involves guided tours, read-alouds, and activities centered around these themes.

All children in grades K-5 are invited to participate in the program. Middle school (6th-8th) and high school (9th-12th) students are welcome to join us as group leaders and volunteers. Registration is required and slots are limited. A parent must complete and submit the registration form to secure a spot. Registration forms can be picked up at the Visitor Center.

■ Saturday, Oct.20, 2018

World War II Servicemen: 9am to 11:30am

Rosie the Riveter: 2pm to 4:30pm

■ Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018

Herman "Pan" Guerrero: A Baker in War, from 9am to 3pm. This session will include a field-trip to Herman's Bakery. Parents are asked to provide lunch for their child.

Early WWII Trick or Treating at the Visitor Center

From Oct. 27 to Oct. 31, from 9am to 5pm at the Visitor Center, everyone is invited to complete an activity sheet and learn about the history of our islands. Once submitted, participants can claim a Halloween treat.

Halloween at American Memorial Park

This Halloween, the community is invited to stop by American Memorial Park for some Halloween fun. On Oct. 31, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm, the park will be having trick-or-treat alongside community partners.

For anyone interested in partnering with American Memorial Park and having a station for this Halloween event, contact Pacific Historic Parks education specialist Jovannalyn Mafnas at 234-7207 Ext. 2020, or via email at: jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org. ***(NPS)***

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. (Mobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, which holds an industry-leading inventory of resources and is one of the world's largest integrated refiners, marketers of petroleum products and chemical manufacturers. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Aviation Operations Superintendent

Job Description:
The Aviation Operations Superintendent is responsible for supervising the Aviation Operations at the Saipan airport Depot and assisting the Aviation Operations Manager in the safe and proper handling and storage and movement of aviation products at the airport. The Superintendent is also responsible for dispensing aviation fuel into aircraft, assists in keeping the facility and personnel in compliance with Mobil Aviation's systems controls and guidelines, Joint Inspection Group (JIG) standards, ExxonMobil Joint Inspection Group and optimizing the efficiency of all assets at the facility.

Location:
- Saipan Aviation Depot, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Job Duties:
- Leads, executes and complies with Mobil's Operations integrity management systems, controls,policies and guidelines by using Mobil procedures, aviation manuals, follows Joint inspection Group standards and procedures and adhering to local and federal government regulations and industry standards.
- Ensures that only clean, dry and on-specification fuel is delivered to aircraft safely and efficiently.
- Interface with the refuellers and contractors to perform facility or equipment maintenance and repair to improve operations' safety and efficiency in the most economical manner.
- Oversees all aspects of aviation products, assets and materials and ensures that they are used in a safe and efficient manner.
- Responsible for personnel adherence to required levels of performance on assigned duties during the shift. Approves and implements actions on equipment maintenance and repairs recommended by refuellers, contractors and engineering but not limited to.
- Reports the current developments and other information pertaining to the operations and performance of the facility to the Aviation Operations Manager.
- Other administrative management duties as required.

Qualifications / Skills required:
- Supervisory experience in safe petroleum handling, storage and movement or related field
- Understanding of aviation and federal regulations as applicable to petroleum handling, storage and distribution
- Must be able to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends and holidays
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate orally and in writing in English

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:
- Experience in aviation operations
- Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage
- Previous experience in petroleum industry

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before October 26, 2018 to the following:

Attention to:
Upper Pacific Islands Aviation Operations
Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc.
P.O. Box 500367 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 236-8190
Correspondence Email: garet.olivares@exxonmobil.com

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-004

LALANGHA AVENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Lalangha Avenue Road Improvement**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 19, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasury and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 7, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 15, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time November 29, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 29, 2018,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net.** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 29, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 10, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, December 13, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on November 29, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission**. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled power outages

There will be scheduled power interruptions on Oct. 20 and Oct. 23.

On Oct. 20, 2018, the outage will occur from 5am to 12pm and will affect Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau. It will affect the Middle Road and Quartermaster traffic light intersections. No water well service area or wastewater service area will be affected. One power pole will be replaced.

The Oct. 23 power outage will affect Industrial Drive in Lower Base. It will also affect the Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Puerto Rico.

No water well service area will be affected but the wastewater service area in Sadog Tasi and Puerto Rico will be affected.

The purpose of the power interruptions is to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to replace wooden poles with concrete poles. These are a continuation of CUC's Hazard Mitigation Project to replace 787 wooden poles with concrete ones. So far, 774 pole replacements have been made by CUC and its contractor.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Deadline to comment on OVR policy reset

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the State Rehabilitation Council would like to announce that the deadline for submission of public comments on OVR's revisions to its Supported Employment Policy has been extended to Oct. 31, 2018. If you have any questions contact Josephine Tudela at jo@ovrgov.net or at 670-322-6537/8. ***(PR)***

Andersen Air Force Base sets annual exercise

Andersen Air Force Base is scheduled to conduct an Operational Readiness Exercise from Nov. 5 to Nov. 8. This exercise satisfies an annual requirement in accordance with Air Force Installation Mission Assurance Exercise Requirements to maintain operational readiness and is not focused on any specific threat.

Expect increased noise and activity to include sound effects, messages from loud speakers, sirens and noise from alert vehicles. Visual effects such as smoke may also be visible.

The exercise will involve various training scenarios and is intended to prepare airmen to conduct various base functions in a high-risk environment. The exercise is a routinely scheduled event to ensure ongoing readiness of Airmen.

In the event of a real situation the exercise will be terminated and the base will be notified through the official Andersen Air Force Base Facebook page, AtHoc notification system and the base loudspeakers. ***(PR)***

SSHS reports out today

Saipan Southern High School would release its mid-progress reports today, Oct. 19, 2018, from 4pm to 6pm. Please stop by your child's classroom to pick up the mid-progress report. ***(PR)***

Library closed on Oct. 27

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Oct. 27, in lieu of the 4th Annual Friends of the Library Golf Tournament. If interested in participating in the tournament or for more information, call the library at 235-READ. ***(PR)***

UOG association to host senatorial forum

The University of Guam Political Science Student Association will be hosting a 2018 Senatorial Forum Series. The forum series will feature Democrat and Republican candidates running for a seat in the 35th Guam Legislature. The forums will take place on Oct. 23, 24, and 25, from 5pm to 7pm at the University of Guam CLASS Lecture Hall.

The topics that will be addressed in this forum are economic development, political status, environmental sustainability, and UOG related issues. The audience will also have an opportunity to ask the candidates questions. ***(PR)***

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
SABLAN.HOUSE.GOV

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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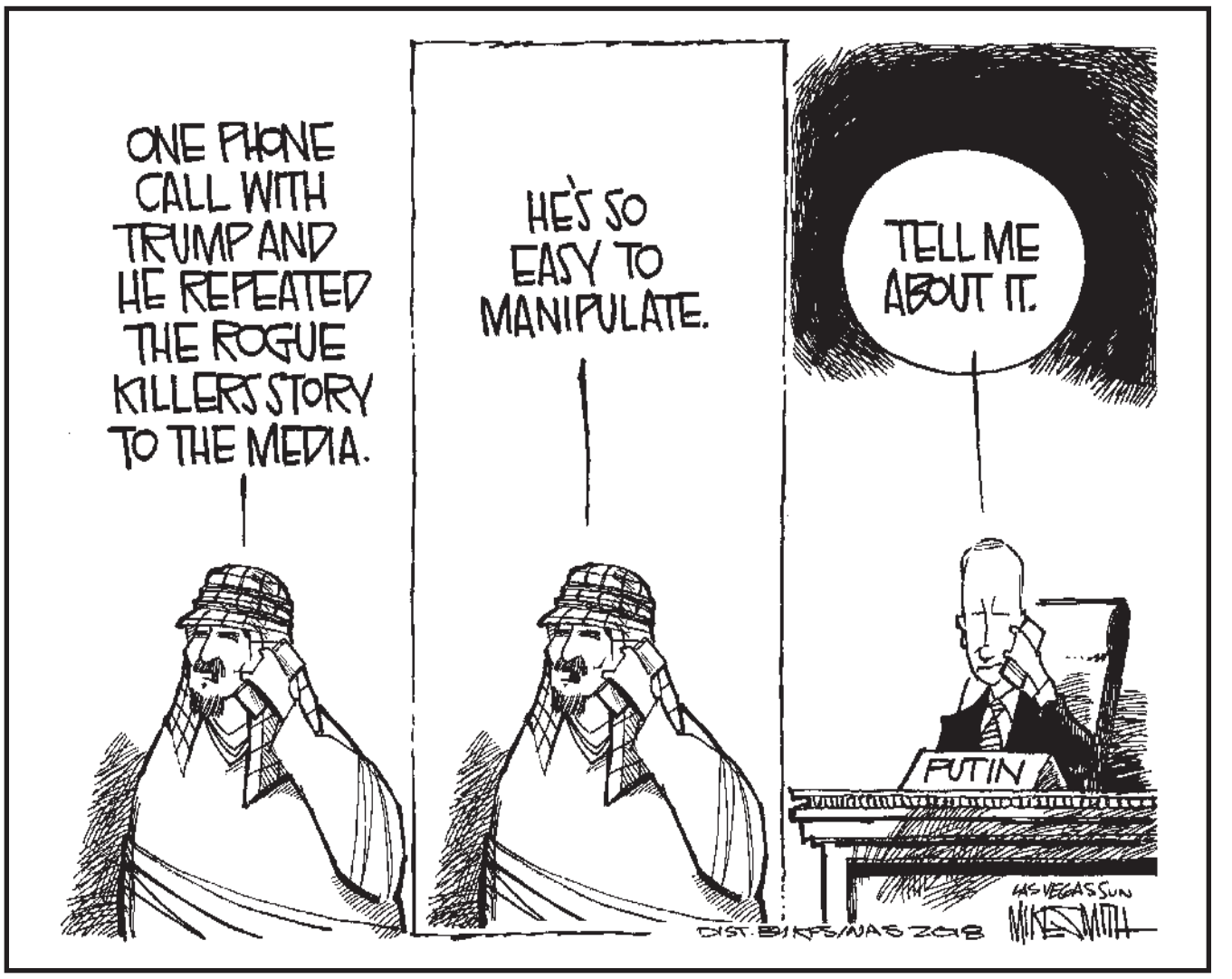
ONE PHONE CALL WITH TRUMP AND HE REPEATED THE ROGUE KILLERS STORY TO THE MEDIA.
HE'S SO EASY TO MANIPULATE.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
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LAS VEGAS SUN
MIKE SMITH
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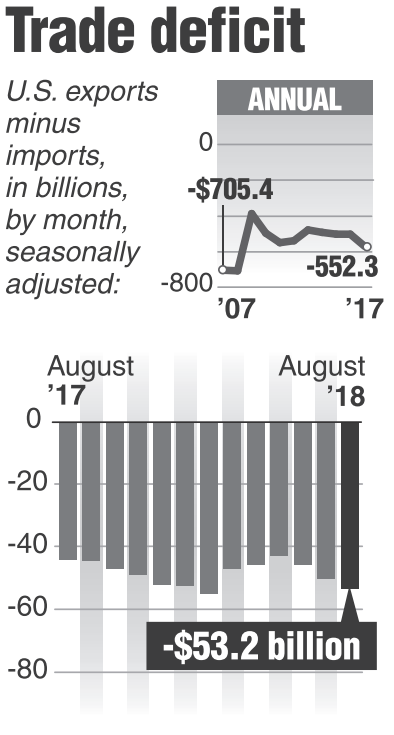
EDITORIAL

Red ink horror show: Deficits are spiking, as everyone predicted

Just in time for the Halloween season, a ghoulish idea fit to be buried forever rises from the grave and gets a stake through the heart, surely to rise again.

As it did under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, a massive tax cut—benefiting the very wealthiest—is exploding the federal deficit, prompting so-called conservative calls to slash the nation's social safety net to get the country out of a fiscal crisis of its own creation.

In the just-ended federal fiscal year, corporate tax collections plummeted by 31 percent, thanks in to a cut in the tax rate. Income tax receipts barely grew, despite healthy GDP growth.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Combine those trend lines with Republican demands to grow the Pentagon, the costliest discretionary government spending, and you get what every economist with a brain predicted and what Republicans denied, denied, denied would happen: an astronomical, 17 percent increase over 2017 in the deficit—to $779 billion, rocketing on the way to $1 trillion by 2020.

Reminder: Supposed fiscal hawk Sen. Bob Corker, who provided a pivotal vote for the tax bill's passage, had vowed to oppose it "if it looks like to me ... that we are adding one penny to the deficit."

This year's deficit increase, $113 billion, is 11,300,000,000,000 pennies.

The increase, especially obscene at a time of robust economic growth and low unemployment, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell now deems "disturbing," even though it was exactly as projected.

His solution, of course, is to slash Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid.

Those programs could use reforms—including raising the threshold of income that's taxed on the richest among us. But what McConnell and his ilk envision is something far more draconian. Of course, President Trump has ruled out such rejiggering.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool us the umpteenth time, and what the hell are we thinking?

(c)2018 New York Daily News

Mariana Trench: More waiting

By IGNACIO V. CABRERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dear people of the Marianas: I have promised to keep you informed about the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument and here is the latest information I have recently learned. The nomination to the bring the sanctuary program to the CNMI is stalled. I think it's important for the community to understand how important it is to have the NOAA Sanctuaries as our monument manager. The best way I can think of to share this with you is to give you the history. For some of you, I might be repeating myself, but for others, I hope that this would give you a better understanding.

Ten years ago, in October 2008, the Friends of the Mariana Trench wrote a letter to then-President George W. Bush and asked him to designate a marine national monument. We specifically proposed "that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through its National Marine Sanctuaries Program, be the federal agency that administers, co-manages, and enforces the monument, along with the CNMI." I quote this from our original vision letter to Bush on Oct. 15, 2008.

We made this "Vision Statement" for a proposal. It described our hopes and goals for management and enforcement, culture and tradition, conservation, education, research, and economic development. It is widely published on the web or if you haven't already seen it, you can also contact me, and I will give you a copy. The letter was drafted through the effort of several members of our community and it took three to four weeks for us to complete it. We discussed a lot and worked hard to make sure that all voices were included.

Ten years ago, when the monument was declared by Proclamation 8335, we celebrated and hoped that this was the beginning of our journey to achieve our vision. But, when we had the chance to read the details of the monument declaration, we immediately noticed that it didn't follow our vision statement proposal. Our first concern was that the CNMI was not given "co-management" and the NOAA Sanctuaries office was not given management of the monument. Instead, NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service were made the managers and the monument was to be managed "in consultation with" the CNMI. It was in 2009 that the Friends wrote to newly-elected Delegate Sablan and asked him to help correct these issues. We knew the monument as it was declared would never result in the benefits we had all hoped for. We have been saying this for a decade now.

For the next 10 years, we spent our energy trying to convince the Obama administration to bring the NOAA Sanctuary program to the CNMI. Then the same when the Trump administration began. We have a paper trail documenting these communications and would be happy to share the letters. We first approached the federal government in 2009, and the NOAA administrator told us no. We approached them again in 2010, and again they told us no. In 2013, Delegate Sablan approached the administration. By now four years had passed and there hadn't been any progress on the monument. They again said no, because the monument management plan was due out "next year." That was five years ago. Then in 2016, Delegate Sablan and Gov. Torres approached the administration again; and this time they listened. The White House asked the delegate and the governor to submit an official nomination, and they in turn asked us to write one.

So, in December 2016, as the chairman of the Friends of the Mariana Trench, we submitted a nomination for a Mariana Trench Marine National Sanctuary—something we've been working toward for more than a decade. The process to nominate a sanctuary is transparent and open and is outlined on the NOAA website (https://nominate.noaa.gov/). NOAA Sanctuaries accepted our nomination in March 2017. The nomination is now on the inventory of possible sanctuaries (which can be viewed online). The next step is to begin a sanctuary process, a transparent and open process that engages the community on how they want ocean conservation to take place in our community. When this process begins, NOAA Sanctuaries has told us that they would open an office and hire local staff—something that after 10 long years USFWS and NOAA Fisheries have not done.

As we have said from the time of the original proposal, the vision of the Friends for the Mariana Trench monument is not possible without the partnership of NOAA Sanctuaries. The agencies assigned by the Proclamation 8335 in January 2009, NOAA Fisheries and National Wildlife Refuge, do not have the same mandate or mission to do the activities or set up a visitor's center like NOAA Sanctuaries does. While the Friends has very good working relationships with both agencies, it doesn't matter how much we try, they don't have the mandate or authority to help us get those things that we envisioned. This is why we continue to ask NOAA Sanctuaries to accept our nomination. Like many people in our community, including our lawmakers, we too want to see the vision come true.

However, despite our decade of advocacy, in June of this year the Trump administration decided not to start the sanctuary pro-

See MARIANA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Three phrases

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I'm a bit of a curmudgeon about business buzzwords and buzz-phrases, but I'll offer three phrases that seem pretty solid to me:

1) Management by Wandering Around

M.B.W.A. used to be in vogue in the corporate world. Its fashionability might have faded a bit in more recent times. Anyway, faded or not, I'm a fan of the idea, or at least a fan of the idea as I interpret it.

The notion is that managers should make a habit of uprooting themselves from their desks so they can wander around the company spaces a bit.

The best managers I knew, including presidents and CEOs, were doing M.B.W.A. before it was a buzz-phrase. They just had the natural inclination to keep their heads out of the office bubble. Furthermore, they enjoyed a little bit of random interaction with people.

Not all managers warmed to the concept, though. The more bureaucratically inclined, especially those who were maladroit socially, recoiled in horror at the notion of being left to their own devices around the workers, the various spaces (warehouses, etc.), and the retail branches.

It was no use pushing the reluctant managers out the door to force them to do some M.B.W.A. That's because the reluctant types seemed to have a knack for making a bad impression with anyone they encountered. It takes a little charisma and poise not to unsettle workers if they think they're being snooped on. But snooping wasn't the intent of the technique. To the contrary, it was actually a good opportunity to build some goodwill, which was a nice side-effect, but that wasn't the intent of the technique, either.

So what was the intent? It was merely to wander around and enhance one's general awareness. "Awareness of what" I've been asked. Well, I answer, awareness of whatever you become aware of that merits awareness.

2) "Success is where preparation meets opportunity."

One of my friends used to say this all the time. It made sense decades ago, and it still makes sense today.

One challenge is that we don't always know where the opportunities are going to be, so there aren't any neon signs telling us how to prepare for them.

But the fact is that some people are always studying and building their skills because they like doing so, even if there's no immediate payoff for the effort. By contrast, other people only put forth effort when they clock in at work, and they stop that effort when they clock out.

The world needs both kinds of people, so it's not a question of which way is better, it's just a question of personal preference.

3) "Don't cry over spilled milk."

In business terms, spilled milk is called a "sunk cost." It's money that is gone and irrecoverable, so it should not have a role when making current or future decisions. For example, taking a defective product to market just because you shoveled a lot of money into its development isn't such a hot idea.

That sort of decision would be called the "sunk cost fallacy" in texts on finance and in texts on economics. It's a standard topic. There's not really much to say about it, but human nature is often oriented in the opposite direction. This is one reason that people are often tempted to stick with bad decisions; they feel invested in the situation and can't let go.

If I had to think of a possible exception to this rule, it might be in the realm of taxes, where past costs might influence the timing of a future transaction in which a net gain or loss will be realized. That's the only potential exception I can think of right now. If you know of any others, feel free to send them along.

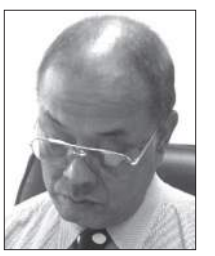
If you do send something along, please don't expect a reply in the next three hours. I won't be at my desk. I'm testing a new technique. I call it, "Lunch By Wandering Around." Something tells me I'm a natural at this.

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

2018 reassessment

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Politics threatened to stay civil and calm in the public domain until a few days ago when it took an explosive turn. It is now piled with vicious accusations of vote buying and other irregularities. Woe!

Negative narrative edges to the surface on both side of the aisle. It's the nature of the beast. And I thought there's a chance to discuss issues in sober fashion. Not!

How does one explain the nearly 15,000 employees stuck under poverty income level? It's a hard nut to crack, given that two former Republican governors succeeded in bringing about sufficient wealth to the islands in recent past. For instance, in 1993 we told the U.S. Congress no more grant funds for we were overflowing with self-generated revenues. What went wrong?

The 80-percent salary increase ruled unconstitutional by the court was allowed to become law under the current administration. Why wasn't it vetoed from the outset? With families panting for air in the swamp of poverty income, Torres needs a miracle to explain the issue to the satisfaction of adversely affected families. It's one tough cookie to chew after more than 20 years of Republican rule.

The hardship has fueled daily use of the term "corruption" throughout the villages. I probe to understand the apparent mouthwash. It all leads back to poverty income among households CNMI-wide. After paying for family obligations there's nothing else left in the kitty. You start praying "my sweet lord… give us this day our daily bread…."

Midterm: Across the fruited plains is the midterm election for the U.S. Congress that ought to determine majority rule, red or blue. It's also seen as Trump's national referendum.

Washington is that awesome global seat of power. I remember sitting at a beautiful park admiring the Jefferson and Lincoln memorials across the Potomac. They're two powerful names I only met in U.S. History class. Indeed, they left behind their indelible contributions in the founding and strengthening of our democratic republic.

I'd mull at the longstanding strength of our national Constitution as penned by the founding fathers. It shows their intellectual strength as visionaries being able to see beyond the years. They wrote the document some 240 years ago.

Am I optimistic of our future? If we could elect people with some depth of perception or the ability to see beyond the years to guide us forward.

It's an interesting year, though strangely calm and quiet it may be throughout the archipelago. Is a surprise on the way to the villages?

Crowded: The islandwide and precinct-level contests are crowded this election year. Not sure how incumbents would fare but they have their own mind-numbing excess baggage to contend with.

It includes the failed 80-percent salary increase while ignoring that nearly 15,000 employees struggling under poverty income. What have they done to increase wages and salaries of these employees?

Unjustified as it may be, the use of the word corruption as a village mouthwash is troubling. Is this the understanding of villagers of people on the hill? I briefly looked into the history of how the word turned into a mouthwash.

It must have been triggered by a Bloomberg story about corruption in the CNMI sometime last year. I know this was challenged in court but haven't seen any judicial disposition as of yet. But it's an uncomfortable mouthwash everywhere!

Vacuum: We hear sketchy information about the future of casino here. For instance, it is rumored that Best Sunshine may not be able to pull through with its planned $7 billion investment. Not sure what may be the issue in what has become suspect investment at best, non-transparency of plans at worse.

Japan would eventually give us a run for our money when it opens its own casinos in the near future. It would lure some 23 million of its own multi-millionaires to support its casino over another outside of the country. It boils down to loyalty to country, something foreign for most islanders here.

The uncertainty of casino as a trigger to stir additional investments leaves doubts for any appreciable expansion of private industries here. Do we leave it to ignorance, indifference or despondence? Or do we reset priorities to dispose of the issue accordingly? We must take it beyond leadership vacuum!

MARIANA

From Page 14

cess in our community. The reason given by NOAA Fisheries officials in Hawaii is that the monument management plan is coming "next year"—this is the same excuse they've used every year since 2013 and it blocks us from the sanctuary nomination going forward.

There are likely several reasons why the sanctuary process is not starting, but it really does not help that our local government sends the federal government mixed signals about our goal to protect our ocean. Gov. Torres says he wants the federal spending of the sanctuary program, but then he stands next to Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke and says he wants to open our waters to industrial fishing boats—boats that would compete with our local fishermen.

So yet again, we find ourselves stuck. We are not going to achieve our vision of conservation with the current monument, but the federal government will not fix the monument because they say NOAA Fisheries and USFWS are going to publish a management plan "next year." Yet, they haven't done their job in 10 years, haven't hired any local staff in 10 years, and the $1 million annual budget has been used to support operations in Honolulu for the last 10 years. This needs to change.

I will leave the story here for today but promise that I will give you more updates during the coming weeks. There are some things we need to think about and discuss and I look forward to your continued support. If you are interested in becoming more active and to help us more hands on, email marianamonument@gmail.com.

As always, *si yu'use ma'ase, olomwaay, salmat po*, thank you and God bless.

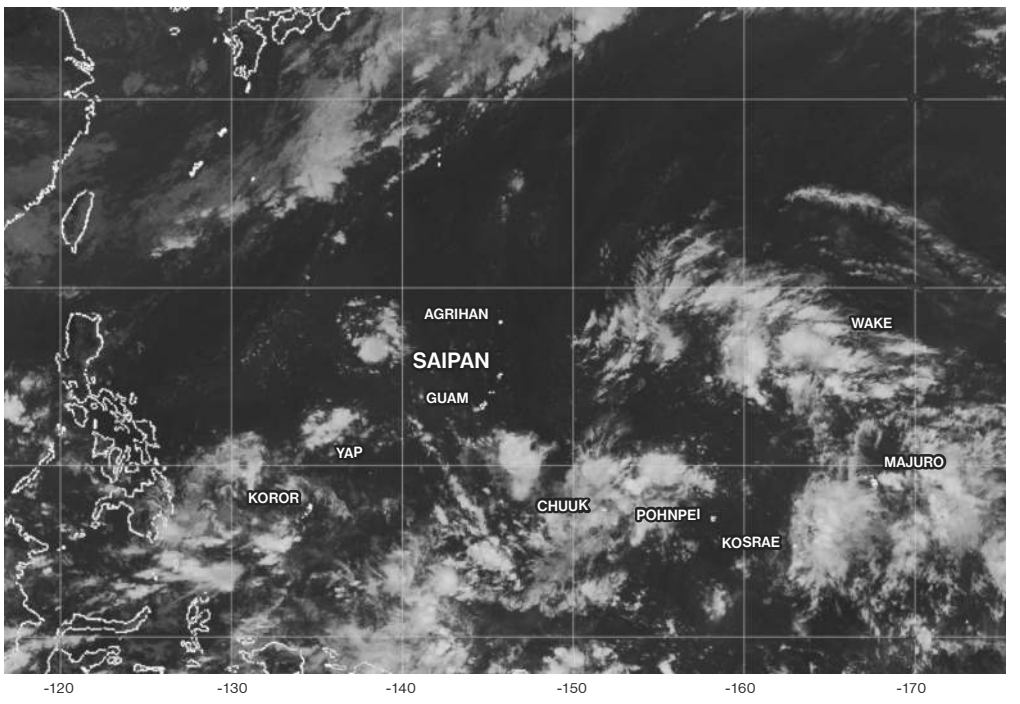
Ignacio V. Cabrera is chairman of the Friends of the Mariana Trench board.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:30 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, isolated showers and gentle east winds are present in the Marianas waters today, with satellite showing heavier showers south and southwest of Guam. Combined seas are indicated near 3 feet at the Tanapag and Ipan buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	64° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	85° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	60° / 53°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Paris	Sunny	68° / 48°
Busan	Sunny	68° / 52°
Rome	Sunny	79° / 59°
Salem	Cloudy	72° / 61°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 54°
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 43°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	62° / 53°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.37
9:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.30
4:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
10:59 PM	LOW TIDE	0.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:22 AM	2:24 PM
Saturday	-	2:11 AM	3:05 PM
Sunday	-	3:01 AM	3:45 PM
Monday	-	3:50 AM	4:24 PM
Tuesday	-	4:39 AM	5:04 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

What can one person do to save the planet?

By J. CAVANAUGH SIMPSON
The Baltimore Sun

J. Cavanaugh Simpson is a lecturer in creative writing at Johns Hopkins University. Twitter: @JoCavanaughSim1.

When I hear the latest bad news about climate change, I freeze up.

I don't deny the reality of climate change. The recently issued United Nations report predicts a global warming crisis as early as 2040—worsening food shortages, wildfires and rising seas. Yet after finding myself drenched in dread, I pursue a kind of denial that allows people to function despite impending doom: Go about daily life, albeit under a darkening cloud.

What difference can one individual make?

Yes, I drive less. Turn off lights. Recycle. That's important, but alone such efforts won't solve this problem. A resulting apathy, or paralysis, stems partly from a natural human reaction to problems so big we feel can do little. And maybe that's the trouble.

In "Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions, and Everyday Life," University of Oregon sociology professor Kari Marie Norgaard noted that people "stopped paying attention to global climate change when they realized that there is no easy solution." Humans also experience "loss aversion," a tendency to protect what we have (avoid sacrifices) rather than contemplate future losses or gains (face uncertainty). As Harvard University's Daniel Gilbert told New Scientist. "A psychologist could barely dream up a better scenario for paralysis."

It's tough to get our heads around an environmental Armageddon. Then we watch yet another hurricane wash away entire towns.

Fossil fuel advocates meanwhile downplay predictions, focusing on short-term profits or resisting carbon taxes, yet oil-and-gas companies are already hedging their bets, investing in alternative fuels or discussing curbs on carbon emissions. Let's keep the pressure on. We are, after all, bearing witness to change: a summer of record-breaking U.S. western wildfires; Hurricane Florence's catastrophic floods devastating the Carolinas, while across the globe mega-typhoons slam Asia; in this hemisphere, we see a rise in rapidly intensifying hurricanes like Hurricane Michael, which steamrolled a sleepy Florida Panhandle last week.

Society mourns, maintaining a cultural cognitive tradition. We now suffer from a form of "ecological grief." Scientists are on the front lines of loss, and organizations such as the Union of Concerned Scientists offer new "tool kits" and personal strategies for action.

If current national leaders won't regulate carbon emissions, individuals can do the following: Write letters to governors or elected representatives (a Maryland law aims to reduce greenhouse gases by 40 percent, compared to 100 percent in California); divest from fossil fuels; urge energy companies to break from "climate disinformation groups;" opt for solar or wind power to increase demand; donate to non-profits seeking climate change fixes; demand strong candidate platforms on climate change and vote. Plant trees, lots of trees. And urge CEOs of 100 companies apparently responsible for a whopping 71 percent of global emissions to shift financial resources to alternative fuels.

Doing something can tamp down anxiety and show we do indeed care.

For example, what if everyone concerned writes their governors to set stricter limits on carbon emissions statewide and encourage investment in climate-sustainable industries like solar to foster new jobs? What if Americans (at 325 million strong) commit to planting CO2-thirsty trees for everyone in their family or donating $10 to the Sierra Club or other nature-savvy groups?

To climate change deniers, I say: "Who cares about the debate?" Why take a chance on a polluted planet for your children and grandchildren? As the UN report noted, greenhouse gases are naturally produced yet have spiked amid forest loss and the Industrial Age, recorded data shows. Today's most abundant greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, "is the product of burning fossil fuels." One way or another, humans are involved. Whether we feel powerless by grief or distrust, we can "break the paralysis," as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently urged nations to help prevent "runaway climate change."

We are threatening our Earth, simply put. So why aren't more conservative Christians leading this charge? From a Biblical standpoint, humans are the planet's stewards. Consider the book of Job: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you."

I have to wonder if the grief-stricken Orca mother who carried her calf for a record 17 days of mourning wasn't trying to tell us something before time runs out for her species—and for ours.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No surprise

First, I want to thank Jon Perez and John S. Pangelinan for their opinion articles on what I believe is the Mariana Resort swindle and Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero who also believes "the shutdown of Mariana Resort & Spa and its facilities could have been avoided had the government been more proactive and aggressive in its negotiation with Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd." and he is right.

I warned the government and people that the Marianas Resort issue was a big swindle but no one listened and now look—the resort is literally facing the possibility of being a white elephant with no definitive future. The fact that the Marianas Resort is now closed is of no surprise to me as I knew when Mrs. Cavanagh, who was a great general manager, left and went to PIC. And when IPI and Kan Pacific went into secret negotiations, I knew that the end of the resort as we knew it was over! One day, the powers-that-be will learn they need to listen to the very people they work for! But I'm an outsider by some people's definition so maybe they don't work for me.

Anyway, this is just another one of my I-told-you-so that could have all been avoided like Rep. Leepan Guerrero said if they had just listened to me and others. We had plenty of time to make a smooth transition but IPI had their eye on the property so what did we do—we set the conditions for IPI to get the property and they even made a secret agreement with Kan Pacific to get the property. I will never understand why and how the local people let them even get away with secret deals about your land and your property in the first place! Locals need to get upset and protest more about other things than just "cultural issues."

I know DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo inherited this problem and I'm thankful she did not give the lease to IPI. It is obvious she is trying to do something as the property is now being broken up, with separate requests for proposals on the Mariana Resort & Spa, Marianas Country Club, and its Olympic-size swimming pool, which might make it easier to lease and even more profitable in the long term. Hopefully, DPL will listen and fast track this issue like Rep. Leepan Guerrero said as the CNMI's investment in the Marianas Resorts translates into millions in tax revenues and a lease that should be close to $100 million. I also hope DPL will focus their ads for the resort in Japan and other countries as we are already entirely too dependent upon China.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman 3, Saipan

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2019-CDA-01-IFB

SUBMISSION AND OPENING
DATE: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply of Desktop Computers for CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
INVESTIGATOR V

Opening Date: 10/10/18 Closing Date: 10/25/18
POSITION: Investigator V EXAMINATION NO. OPA-18-002

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai. Completed Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) employment application form and pertinent documents must be submitted at OPA.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP19-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 21, 2018 TIME: 9:00AM

"PATIENT REGISTRATION FURNISHING, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2018 AT 9:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-DOF-002

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2018 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE DEPARTMNET OF FINANCE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON **OCTOBER 19, 2018** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL, BUILDING NO. 1302, ASCENCION DRIVE.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE TO MS. LARRISA C. LARSON, SECRETARY OF FINANCE, **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 26, 2018.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-18-2010

PASEO DE MARIANAS PEDESTRIAN MALL IMPROVEMENTS

Submission Date: **December 14, 2018**
Time: **3:00 pm**

Submit sealed ITB to: Procurement Office
Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre- BID Conference will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 9:00 AM in the main conference room at the MVA office in San Jose. A site walk will be conducted immediately after the pre-BID in order to further explain the project, and allow interested firms to become familiarized with the site. No BID will be accepted from any firm which fails to attend this mandatory pre-BID conference and site walk.

Interested parties may pick up the ITB package at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Business

After Canada legalizes pot, industry eyes rest of the world

MONTREAL (AP)—Cam Battley is a top executive at one of Canada's biggest marijuana companies, but he isn't sticking around to savor the country's historic pot legalization.

He's off to Germany on Friday and Australia next week — a sign of what a leader Canada has become in the global pot industry, and of the reverberations its decision to legalize could have internationally.

"It's a special moment, not just for Canada, but for the world because my strong conviction is that the rest of the world will follow suit," said Battley, chief corporate officer at Aurora Cannabis. "We're not known as wild and crazy. We're known for good public policy and I think they will follow our lead."

Battley will attend an investor conference in Germany and then head to Australia, which legalized medical marijuana in 2016. He'll meet with a corporate business partner and talk with policymakers in Sydney and Melbourne.

Battley's itinerary is indicative of the internationalization of the marijuana industry. And with national legalization taking effect Wednesday, Canada has emerged as the world leader. It's the second nation — and by far the largest — with countrywide legalization of so-called recreational pot.

Its deliberate approach, which took more than two years of planning, allows provinces to shape their own laws within a federal framework, including setting the minimum age and deciding whether to distribute through state-run or private retail outlets. That offers other countries a model somewhere between the more strictly regulated system in Uruguay, the only other country with legal sales, and the more commercial version in some of the nine U.S. states that have approved recreational marijuana.

Canada's federal approval has given its industry a huge advantage over its American counterpart, including unfettered access to banking and billions of dollars in investment. Canadians can even order marijuana online and have weed delivered by mail to their door.

That's all made for some envy among American cannabis entrepreneurs, including Derek Peterson, the chief executive of California-based marijuana producer Terra Tech. Peterson took out a full page ad in the Wall Street Journal this week urging President Donald Trump to help ease prohibition and eliminate hurdles for the U.S. pot industry before Canada leaves it even farther behind.

Some in the U.S. Congress have also taken notice, pressing for the federal government to get out of the way of states that want to legalize, but it remains unclear what weight Canada's legalization might carry south of the border.

It might have a more immediate effect in countries like New Zealand, where the government has promised a legalization referendum by 2020, said John Walsh, of the advocacy group Washington Office on Latin America. Mexico, the Netherlands and Italy are among other nations that have been mulling legalization. To the surprise of many familiar with Amsterdam's marijuana cafes, Holland has only very limited legalization.

AP
Jean Marc looks at a sample at a cannabis store in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018.

"This is the genie out of the bottle," Walsh said. "Because of Canada's reputation for being fairly careful, for being a good global citizen, and because of the scale of their market, it's a more likely example for other countries."

Battley said he expects the global recreational market to develop much as the medical market has done. Canada legalized medical marijuana nationally in 2001.

"Once you see Grandma and Uncle Ted using medical cannabis to manage their arthritis pain, suddenly the substance is not so scary and not so stigmatized," he said. "That opens up the space for countries to move forward with consumer legalization as well. I think Canada is at the forefront of a global mega trend."

Many customers celebrating Wednesday certainly thought so. Festivities erupted throughout the nation of 37 million.

Rising drug prices widen gap between have, have-not patients

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—For Bridgett Snelten, changing her health insurance meant enduring wild blood sugar swings, bouts of vomiting and weight gain.

The Sandy, Utah mother of two young girls has diabetes and has had to change health insurance plans three years in a row. Twice, new insurers wouldn't cover Trulicity, a once-a-week injected diabetes medicine she'd been taking that helped control her blood sugar tightly. Instead, they made her return to an inexpensive, twice-a-day injected diabetes drug she and her doctor knew didn't work for her.

Each time, blood sugar plunges caused the shakes, vomiting and other symptoms until her doctor finally persuaded the new insurer to approve Trulicity, which retails for more than $700 per month.

"It was almost a whole year of hell just trying to get on the right medication" the last time, recalls Snelten, 43. "Who are they to say more than my doctor what's right for me?"

More and more, patients like Snelten are being caught up in efforts to rein in the cost of health care—efforts employers and patients desperately want to succeed. But the strategies also can restrict access to the newest, most expensive drugs even for those who need them.

"We are in a sense entering a two-tiered system because there are individuals who can make it happen and just write a check" for a hefty drug copayment, says cardiologist Dr. Elizabeth Klodas in Edina, Minnesota. "Others are not able."

Some of the insurance policy provisions have long been used, but they are becoming more common, including:

■ Patients generally must pay up to 30 percent of the cost of pricey drugs, not a fixed "co-pay." That means patients who need expensive drugs can face huge bills until they hit their plan's out-of-pocket maximum.

■ Patients and doctors must get permission in advance to use some drugs, something called prior authorization, which can take weeks or months.

■ Some patients, like Snelten, have to go through what's called "step therapy." Patients must try cheaper medicines first before they are allowed to move on to newer, costlier drugs. Sometimes, a patient's health deteriorates in the meantime.

Starting next year, Medicare Advantage plans, which are used by about 20 million Americans over 65, will be allowed to implement step therapy provisions.

In a survey last year by the doctors' networking site SERMO, 64 percent of the 3,050 U.S. respondents said at least once a month an insurer rejected what they'd prescribed, even after a patient had failed step therapy.

"Anything that's a barrier decreases the chance that the doctor will prescribe it and the patient will get it," says former American College of Cardiology president Dr. Mary Norine Walsh, head of advanced heart failure treatment at St. Vincent Heart Center in Indianapolis.

Nearly 80 percent of family doctors and specialists surveyed by the American Medical Association last year said patients "often" or "sometimes" abandon their recommended treatment if their insurer won't cover it. Ninety-two percent said the red tape associated with getting drugs covered harms patients' health.

Trump administration won't brand China currency manipulator

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration has again decided not to brand China a currency manipulator. But the U.S. is targeting China and five others for special monitoring for what the administration says are practices that are worsening America's trade deficit.

In a report issued Wednesday, the administration says no country meets the criteria to be labeled a currency manipulator. But the report says that six nations— China, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland— will remain on a watch list subjecting them to added U.S. pressure to lower trade surpluses.

The Treasury Department report says the administration will closely monitor the recent depreciation of Beijing's currency, which it said would likely worsen America's trade deficit with China.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said China's lack of transparency and the recent weakness of its currency were of particular concern to the administration.

"These pose major challenges to achieving fairer and more balanced trade and we will continue to monitor and review China's currency practices including through ongoing discussions with the People's Bank of China," Mnuchin said in a statement accompanying the report.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump vowed to name China a currency manipulator as soon as he took office. But so far, the administration has passed up four opportunities to do so in a report that the administration is required by law to deliver to Congress every six months.

Instead, the administration has accused Beijing of various trade infractions and imposed billions of dollars of tariffs on Chinese goods coming into the United States. China has retaliated, sparking a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

The United States has imposed tariffs on about $250 billion in Chinese goods, and Beijing has responded by targeting about $110 billion in U.S. products.

The Trump administration contends that China is using predatory practices to challenge American technological dominance. These include hacking into U.S. companies' computers to steal trade secrets and forcing American firms to hand over technology to China in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

America incurred a goods deficit of $375.9 billion with China last year, the largest imbalance with any nation. That represented nearly half of America's total global trade deficit in goods of $807.5 billion.

Nation

Analysis: With 'America First,' where do human rights rank?

WASHINGTON (AP)—If it's an "America First" presidency, where does that rank human rights?

President Donald Trump's refusal to put public pressure on Saudi Arabia over the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi is raising a question that has dogged his foreign policy. In dealing with Russia, across Asia and, this week, in the Mideast, Trump has often appeared comfortable downplaying concerns about rights abuses and dismissing the importance of U.S. moral leadership. The onetime real estate mogul is as likely to let U.S. financial or security interests guide his choices and his words.

In an Associated Press interview Tuesday, Trump repeated the Saudi royals' denials of any involvement in Khashoggi's apparent killing and suggested he trusted them.

"I spoke to the crown prince, so you have that. He said he and his father knew nothing about it. And that was very important," Trump said. He compared blame directed at the Saudis over Khashoggi, who Turkish officials have said was killed in the Saudis' Istanbul consulate, to the allegations of sexual assault leveled against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearing. Both, he suggested, had been considered "guilty until proven innocent."

Trump

Not many U.S. leaders would cast Saudi Arabia as innocent. Saudi Arabia is engaged in a bloody civil war in Yemen that has killed thousands of civilians and exacerbated a famine that has killed many more. Domestically, the absolute monarchy strictly regulates speech and dress, and its security services have been accused of torture.

Trump has shown no interest in calling out the kingdom over Khashoggi — or calling out Russian President Vladimir Putin on assassinations or North Korea's Kim Jong Un on political prisoners. Where past presidents in both parties used their office to promote U.S. values and ideals — even when their action didn't align — Trump has rarely seized the chance. Instead, he says what others would not, openly embracing the compromises he justifies as best for the American bottom line.

"We're not going to walk away from Saudi Arabia. I don't want to do that," he told Fox Business News on Wednesday.

Trump made clear that he was prioritizing the nation's economy, not morality.

"I don't like stopping massive amounts of money that is being poured into our country," Trump said last week. "I know they are talking about different kinds of sanctions, but (the Saudis) are spending $110 billion on military equipment and on things that create jobs for this country. I don't like the concept of stopping an investment of $110 billion into the United States."

Mexico Beach residents return home again—some to no home

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—With stunned faces and tears, residents of hard-hit Mexico Beach returned home for the first time Wednesday about a week after Hurricane Michael hit to find pieces of their lives scattered across the sand and a community altered.

Nancy Register sobbed uncontrollably after finding no trace of the large camper where she'd lived with her husband. She was particularly distraught over the loss of an old, black-and-white photo of her mother, who died of cancer.

Husband Taylor Register said he found nothing but a stool that he uses for cutting his hair, a hose and a keepsake rock that was given to him by a friend 40 years ago.

"That's my belongings," he said, pointing to a small pile beside his red pickup truck. Choking up, he said: "I appreciate God humbling me. Everybody needs it."

Just up the road, tears ran down Lanie Eden's face as she and husband Ron Eden sifted through sand in search of items they left before evacuating from the small beach house they've rented each October for years. They didn't find much - just a large pack of toilet paper that somehow stayed dry and a son's camp chair.

Military personnel are beginning the process of recovery at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida after Hurricane Michael swept through the area, causing heavy damage. They are building temporary housing after the storm damaged many structures. (Oct. 17)

The Edens, who are from Fort Knox, Kentucky, and are temporarily staying in Alabama, were stunned to see mountains of debris and countless destroyed buildings as they drove into town for the first time. In a state of condominium towers, Mexico Beach was one of the few remaining places with small houses and a 1950s feel.

"Basically, we lost 'old Florida.' It's all gone," said Lanie Eden.

New deal keeps open facility that detains immigrant families

HOUSTON (AP)—The U.S. government has quietly reached a new agreement to keep open a 2,400-bed detention facility used to detain immigrant mothers and children, in a lucrative arrangement for a private prison company and the tiny South Texas town where it's located.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement last month signed a contract with the city of Dilley, where the South Texas Family Residential Center opened in 2014. Dilley signed a contract at the same time with CoreCivic, the private prison operator that runs the detention center, the largest facility of its kind in the U.S. The city released both contracts to The Associated Press last week in response to an open records request.

ICE said it was replacing an arrangement dating to President Barack Obama's administration that the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general criticized this year as violating budget guidelines and wasting money. But the new arrangement has some of the same features the inspector general criticized.

When it opened the facility in 2014, the U.S. was seeing a surge of women and children immigrating from Central America. ICE argued it had an urgent need for family bed space and had to circumvent government standards for contracting, which require a bidding process and extensive reviews.

ICE modified an existing detention agreement with the city of Eloy, Arizona, to include the Dilley facility, 900 miles (1,450 kilometers) away. Eloy technically ran the facility, but routed ICE money to CoreCivic, then known as the Corrections Corporation of America.

The inspector general said in a February audit that ICE improperly modified the Eloy contract and that it should have avoided creating a "middleman" and reached an agreement directly with the company operating the facility. Also, not conducting a bidding process may have led ICE to overpay for services at the detention facility, the audit said.

ICE spokeswoman Nina Pruneda said Tuesday that the agency created the agreement with Dilley in response to the inspector general's concerns about Eloy, and that all other terms of the contract will remain the same.

ICE will pay Dilley about $13 million a month for the cost of detaining immigrants at the facility. Dilley will then send almost all of that money to CoreCivic, minus administrative fees that add up to an estimated $438,000 a year.

That's a significant windfall for a city with a population of about 4,000 people that has an annual budget of $2.1 million. Dilley already collects annual revenue-sharing payments from CoreCivic, with $200,000 due in Decembe

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FAX: 9670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of GABRIEL D. DELA CRUZ and ROSA M. DELACRUZ Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0131

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 27, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot. No. 005 I 5016, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 2, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of September, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

William M. Fitzgerald, Esq.
Law Offices of William M. Fitzgerald
2nd Fl. Macaranas Bldg. Garapan Beach Road
P.O. Box 500909, Saipan MP 96950
Tel (670) 234-7241
Fax (670) 234-7530
Email: fitzgerald.law@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner Remedios C. Lim

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF FLOYD ANTHONY LIM, deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0430) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Petition of Remedios C. Lim, seeking to be appointed as Personal Representative of Floyd Anthony Lim, deceased, has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on Thursday, November 1, 2018, at 9:00am. Any person who has any objection to this petition may file his or her objection with the Commonwealth Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

Dated this 17th day of October, 2018.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

THE POSITION: COMMERCIAL INTERIOR DESIGNER

Job Description: Plan, design and furnish interiors of residential, commercial or industrial buildings; Advise clients on interior design factors such as space planning, payout and utilization doe furnishings or equipment and color coordination; choose motifs and styles that suit the needs of the business and customers' preference and then bring it to life with the right color schemes, furniture, fabrics, wall and window treatments, artworks, accessories, and finishes; Estimate material requirements and costs and present design to client for approval; market goods and other merchandises (e.g. carpet, furniture, blinds) offered by the company; Answer customer's questions about products, prices, availability; Recommend products to customers; Provide customers with product samples and catalogs; Contact regular and prospective customers; Prepare drawings, estimate or quote prices; Monitor market conditions, product innovations and competitor's products, prices and sales; Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents; and Perform other related works.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least a High School Graduate; With at least 5-years of relevant work experience in Interior Design; Must have excellent time-management skills, sales ability and self-motivation; Must have the ability to combine technical interior design skills applications and sales business development through technical excellent communication and negotiating skills; Deeply knowledgeable in initiating effective and good business proposal leading to customer satisfaction; goal-oriented with proven ability to create, maintain and enhance client relationships; can communicate the needs and visions of various businesses, and have the innate ability to conceptualize large spaces; knows how to prepare reports & proficient in using computer (CAD) and other related MS Office software.

Job Site: Msgr. Guerrero Rd. corner Kannat Tabla, San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and credentials to:

JAE GYU PARK
CEO/President
MECHILLE CORPORATION

Office Address: Msgr. Guerrero Rd. corner Kannat Tabla
San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501568, Saipan,
MP 96950, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: mechille.corp.gc@gmail.com
Telephone Number: (670) 234-1361

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – August 17, 2018
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance –
      a. Fund Status Report – FY2018
      b. Approved FY2019 Budget
4) **Old Business**
   1. Grant Agreement with NMI Humanities Council for Garapan Heritage Trail – No Cost Extension
   2. Board Standing Committees
5) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
6) **Executive Session**
   1. Proposed Amendments to the MVA Bylaws
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Asia

Key allies quit Duterte Cabinet to run in elections

AP

In this Monday, Oct. 15, 2018, photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, raises the hands of Special Assistant to the President, Christopher "Bong" Go, who filed his candidacy for senator for next year's midterm elections at the Commission on Elections in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —Close allies of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte have resigned from his Cabinet to run in elections next year that will test his popularity and could determine his future political influence.

Among those running in the May 13 elections are Duterte's former foreign secretary, who staunchly defended him from international criticism of his deadly anti-drug crackdown, his spokesman, his political adviser and a longtime aide. Wednesday was the final day for aspirants to register as candidates.

More than 18,000 government posts are up for grabs, including 12 seats in the 24-member Senate, which stymied efforts by Duterte allies this year to rapidly open the country's constitution to amendments and allow a shift to a federal system of government. All the seats in the larger House of Representatives are to be contested.

Duterte, 73, has remained generally popular since he won a six-year term in June 2016 on a promise to eradicate crime and long-entrenched corruption, despite international and domestic criticism of his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs, which has left nearly 5,000 suspects dead in clashes with law enforcers.

"If you think the president is doing his job, vote for us," said Duterte's long-time aide, Christopher "Bong" Go, who is seeking a Senate seat along with two other Cabinet members. Duterte accompanied Go as he registered for his first political contest.

While Duterte's allies overwhelmingly dominate the House, the Senate has posed a challenge with the presence of vocal opposition members as well as Duterte allies who have taken critical positions on touchy issues such as changing the 1987 constitution.

Jean Franco, a University of the Philippines political science professor, said it's crucial for Duterte's candidates to win more seats in the Senate although many of his candidates face an uphill battle partly due to their lack of political experience.

"If you can't control the Senate after the midterm elections in terms of numbers, federalism may really be out and of course the other crucial issues," Franco said. Congress' repeated failure to pass a law to enforce a constitutional ban on political dynasties allowed prominent political names to again grab the spotlight ahead of next year's polls.

Imee Marcos, a provincial governor and the daughter of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, filed her candidacy for the Senate, while the offspring of other politicians who fought the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s and 1980s are also seeking Senate seats. Ferdinand Marcos' 89-year-old widow and outgoing House member, Imelda Marcos, is planning to replace her daughter Imee as governor of northern Ilocos Norte province.

An army-backed "people power" revolt ousted Marcos in 1986. He and his wife were accused of plundering government coffers during years of rule that were also marked by massive human rights violations. The Marcoses, who backed Duterte's presidency, have denied any wrongdoing.

"I think the new generation, particularly the millennial generation, are ready to hear our side of the story," Imee Marcos told reporters.

Jose Manuel Diokno, dean of a law school and son of a nationalist politician jailed by Marcos in the 1970s, said he would help strengthen the country's judiciary if he wins a Senate seat. Followers of Diokno and Marcos heckled each other when the two registered for the elections Tuesday.

"We don't have accountability because we don't have a working justice system. We have lots of corruption and there are many syndicates and organized crime because of our weak justice system," Diokno said.

Duterte's daughter, Sara, is running for re-election as mayor of southern Davao city while two of his sons are seeking to become Davao vice mayor and a House representative.

At Vatican, South Korean leader says he's certain of peace

VATICAN CITY (AP) —South Korea's president said he was certain peace could be achieved on the Korean Peninsula as he prepared for an audience Thursday with Pope Francis where he's expected to extend an invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for Francis to visit.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in delivered remarks at a Wednesday evening "Mass for Peace" in St. Peter's Basilica. The pope's top diplomat, Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, celebrated the Mass.

In his homily, Parolin prayed for the "gift of peace" on the Korean Peninsula so "after so many years of tensions and division, the word 'peace' can ring out fully."

Moon spoke at the end of the service, saying the prayers offered there "will also resound as echoes of hope in the hearts of the people of the two Koreas as well as the people of the whole world who desire peace."

"Our prayers today will turn into reality for sure," the South Korean leader said. "We will achieve peace and overcome division without fail."

Moon signed a broad agreement with Kim last month meant to reduce military tensions on the peninsula. Moon's office has reported that during their summit, Kim said the pope would be "enthusiastically" welcomed in North Korea.

Moon also had an important role in setting up a June meeting between Kim and President Donald Trump that took place in Singapore, where they announced aspirational goals for a nuclear-free peninsula without describing how and when it would occur.

"Just as your holiness prayed before the U.S.-North Korea summit, we are paving a desirable way toward assuring a peaceful future for the Korean Peninsula and the world," Moon said.

"The history of mankind has been marked by the embarrassment that is war. The signing of an end of war declaration and a peace treaty in the Korean Peninsula would dismantle the earth's last-remaining Cold War regime."

In an article that appeared in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, Moon praised Francis for his promotion of dialogue and said he hoped the Korean peace initiative could help the Vatican forge relations with the North.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb kills Afghan candidate as Taliban vow to attack polls

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban bombing in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province killed a candidate running in the parliamentary elections this weekend, a provincial official said, as attacks elsewhere in the country killed six policemen and two soldiers. The attacks came as the Taliban warned teachers and students not to participate in the vote and not to allow schools to be used as polling centers. The insurgents said in a statement that they will target Saturday's elections, which they view as illegitimate, but that they do not want to harm civilians. The blast in Helmand went off inside the campaign office of Abdul Jabar Qahraman, killing him and wounding seven people, said Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor. The bomb appeared to have been hidden in a sofa, Zwak said. The Taliban promptly claimed responsibility for killing Qahraman.

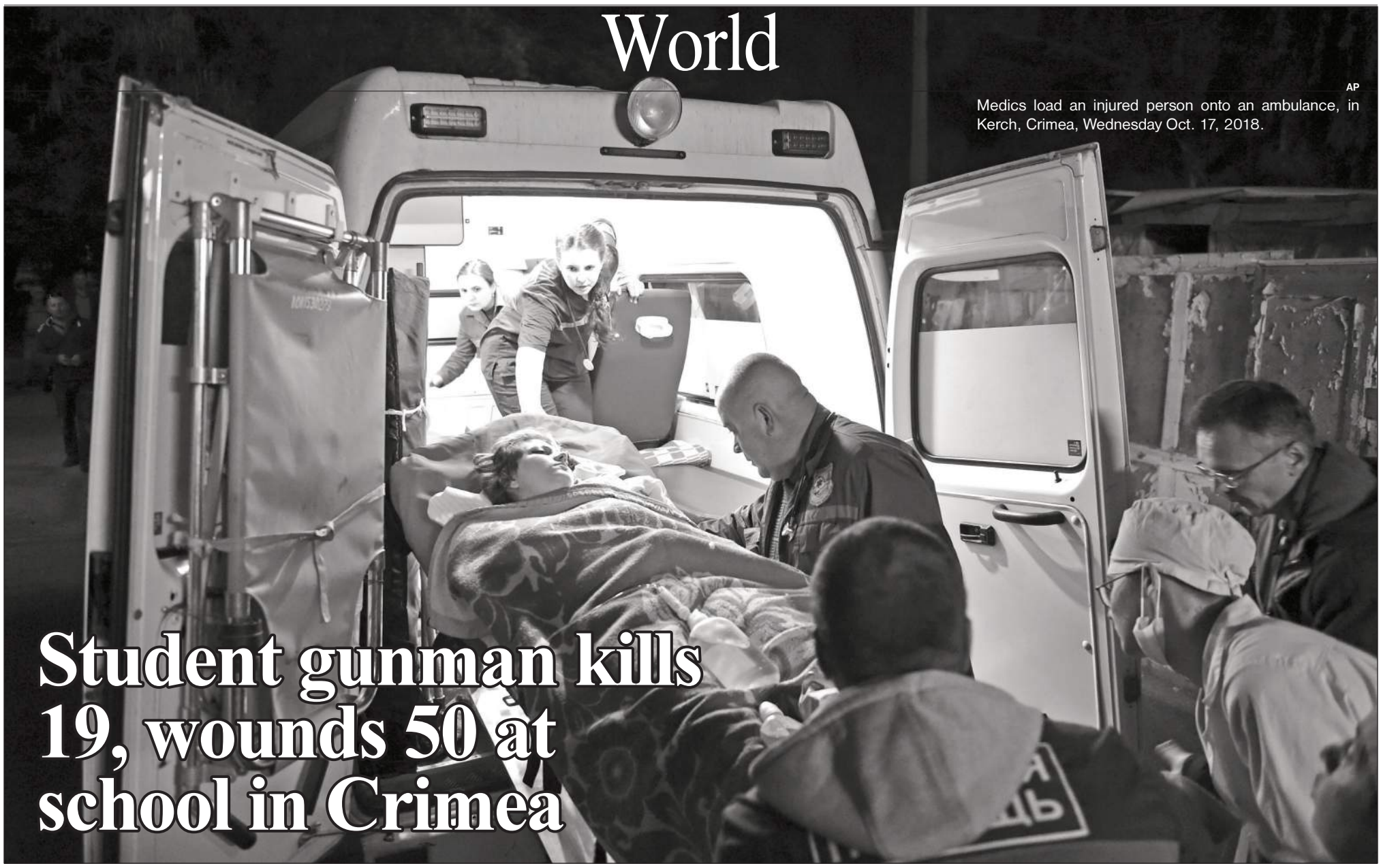
Protesters stop females ages 10 to 50 from entering temple

NEW DELHI (AP)—A temple in southern India and one of the world's largest Hindu pilgrimage centers opened its doors to females of menstruating age on Wednesday to comply with a Supreme Court ruling, but women weren't able to enter as hundreds of protesters fought street battles with police to keep them out. As the gates of the Sabarimala temple were flung open, a crowd of male devotees surged toward the temple. About 1,000 police used batons to try to control the protesters, who attacked them with stones and damaged police and TV vehicles and bullied female devotees to turn back. The protesters ran after the media vehicles, pounding them with hands and kicking to stop them from reaching the temple site. The state Industry Minister, E.P. Jayarajan, told the Press Trust of India news agency that at least 10 reporters and photojournalists were injured and their equipment damaged.

Indian gov't minister resigns, denies sex harassment claims

NEW DELHI (AP)—M.J. Akbar, India's junior external affairs minister, resigned Wednesday amid accusations by 20 women of sexual harassment during his previous career as one of the country's most prominent news editors, becoming the most powerful man to fall in India's burgeoning #MeToo movement. Akbar said in a statement that he would "challenge false accusations" in a personal capacity, referring to a criminal defamation case he filed Monday against the first woman to accuse him. Akbar, 67, first served as a lawmaker for India's then-ruling India National Congress party between 1989 and 1991. He then edited The Telegraph, The Asian Age and other newspapers and wrote several books of nonfiction, becoming one of the most influential people in the Indian news media. He returned to public life in March 2014, when he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and was appointed national spokesman during the 2014 election that brought the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to power.

World



AP

Medics load an injured person onto an ambulance, in Kerch, Crimea, Wednesday Oct. 17, 2018.

Student gunman kills 19, wounds 50 at school in Crimea

MOSCOW (AP)—An 18-year-old student strode into his vocational school in Crimea, a hoodie covering his blond hair, then pulled out a shotgun and opened fire on Wednesday, killing 19 students and wounding more than 50 others before killing himself.

It wasn't clear what prompted Vladislav Roslyakov, described as a shy loner, to go on the rampage. A security camera image carried by Russian media showed him calmly walking down the stairs of the school in the Black Sea city of Kerch, the shotgun in his gloved hand.

"He was walking around and shooting students and teachers in cold blood," said Sergei Aksyonov, the regional leader in Crimea.

Officials said the fourth-year student killed himself in the library of the Kerch Polytechnic College after the attack. His mother, a nurse, was helping to treat victims at a local hospital after the shootings, unaware yet that her son was accused of the rampage and was already dead.

Such school shootings are rare, and Wednesday's attack was by far the worst by a disgruntled student in Russia, which annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. The bloodbath raised questions about school security in the country; the Kerch Polytechnic College had only a front desk with no security guards.

By the end of the day, Crimean authorities said the death toll stood at 19, apparently not including the shooter. Fifty-three people were wounded, including 12 in serious condition.

It was the greatest loss of life in school violence in Russia since the Beslan terrorist attack by Chechen separatists in 2004, in which 333 people were killed during a three-day siege, many of them children, and hundreds were wounded.

The announcement that the shooter in Wednesday's attack was a student who acted alone came after hours of rapidly shifting explanations as to what exactly happened at the school.

Officials at first reported a gas explosion, then said an explosive device had ripped through the cafeteria during lunchtime in a suspected terrorist attack.

Witnesses, however, reported that victims were being killed by gunfire. The Investigative Committee, Russia's top crime investigation agency, eventually said all the victims died of gunshot wounds.

Reflecting the daylong confusion, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the victims were killed by an explosion just as the Investigative Committee was announcing they were fatally shot.

A somber-faced Putin deplored the attack as a "tragic event" and offered his condolences to the victims' families at a news conference in the southern city of Sochi, where he was meeting with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

The Investigative Committee said the explosive device rigged with shrapnel went off in the school lunchroom and Sergei Melikov, a deputy chief of the Russian National Guard, said it was homemade. Officials later found a second explosive device and destroyed it.

It was not clear what the explosive was, if the attacker detonated it, or how many people it wounded.

Guns are tightly restricted in Russia. Civilians can own only hunting rifles and smooth-bore shotguns and must undergo significant background checks. Roslyakov had only recently received a permit to own a shotgun and bought 150 cartridges just a few days ago, according to local officials.

Aksyonov, the regional leader in Crimea, said the gunman had been described as a shy boy who had no conflicts.

Police search Saudi consul's home in Khashoggi case

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish crime-scene investigators searched the home of the Saudi consul general in Istanbul on Wednesday in the disappearance of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi, and a pro-government newspaper published a gruesome account of the journalist's alleged slaying.

As Saudi Arabia's green national flag flapped overhead, forensics teams entered the residence, only 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the consulate where Khashoggi vanished Oct. 2 while trying to pick up paperwork to get married. It was the second-such extraordinary search of a site considered under international law to be sovereign Saudi territory after investigators spent hours in the consulate earlier this week.

The account published in the Yeni Safak newspaper alleged that Saudi officials cut off Khashoggi's fingers and then decapitated him at the consulate as his fiancée waited outside.

Hours later, The Washington Post published a column by Khashoggi it said it received after he was reported missing, in which he pointed to the muted international response to ongoing abuses against journalists by governments in the Middle East.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Pompeo was there to discuss the disappearance and alleged killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi with Turkey's President. (Oct. 17)

"As a result, Arab governments have been given free rein to continue silencing the media at an increasing rate," Khashoggi wrote. He added: "The Arab world is facing its own version of an Iron Curtain, imposed not by external actors but through domestic forces vying for power."

UN: Ebola outbreak is worrying but not a global emergency

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization says it is "deeply concerned" by the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Congo but the situation does not yet warrant being declared a global emergency.

After convening an expert group to assess the epidemic on Wednesday, the U.N. health agency said "response activities need to be intensified and ongoing vigilance is critical."

Aid organizations have expressed alarm as the rate of new Ebola cases more than doubled this month and resistance to efforts to stop the virus has turned violent. WHO has warned the risk of Ebola spreading in the region is "very high" as confirmed cases were reported close to the Ugandan border. It says the risk of international spread is low.

Congo says there have been 185 confirmed cases, including 107 deaths.

To warrant being declared a global emergency, an outbreak must be "an extraordinary event" that might cross borders, requiring a coordinated response. WHO has previously made such pronouncements for epidemics including Zika in the Americas in 2016, Ebola in West Africa in 2014 and the swine flu pandemic in 2009.

Robert Steffen, chair of the WHO's emergency committee, said that since there is already high awareness of the epidemic's dangers and an extensive response in Congo, there was "no added value" to declaring a global emergency. He added, however, that if the virus infects another country, that could trigger another meeting.

Congo's health minister, Oly Ilunga, told The Associated Press the country welcomed WHO's decision, saying that "we are very satisfied with this news." He told the BBC ahead of the meeting that his country didn't want the declaration, saying that "I think the situation is quite under control."

Focus

Follow the trek of Venezuelan migrants fleeing on foot

BY CHRISTINE ARMARIO

AP

In this Aug. 31, 2018 photo, Venezuelan migrant Orlando, 44, gets medical treatment for his feet as he rests from walking across the country, outside the home of Marta Duque, who opens her doors to provide shelter for Venezuelan families with young children, in Pamplona, Colombia. Pamplona is one of the last cities migrants reach before venturing up a frigid Berlin paramo, one of the most feared parts of the journey by foot, with a high altitude and temperatures that dip to 10 degrees below freezing.

About 1.9 million Venezuelans have fled their collapsing nation since 2015 in one of the largest migrations in the world in recent years. The most desperate cannot afford a bus or plane ticket, and so they risk their lives to escape on foot.

Every day, more than 650 migrants start on the walk out of Venezuela. They rush illegally across the border with Colombia, frequently encountering armed criminals. They walk for miles along roads, carrying their belongings. They wrap themselves in blankets, bracing against the cold of frigid mountains.

For nine days, a team of Associated Press journalists followed a Venezuelan mother and daughter as they crossed three borders and nearly 2,700 miles (3,460 kilometers) — about the distance from Los Angeles to New York City.

This is an account of the people, places and dangers migrants encounter along the way.

A PERILOUS CROSSING

VILLA DEL ROSARIO, Colombia—Most Venezuelans buy a bus ticket to the border with Colombia but cannot cross through an official checkpoint because they lack the proper documents, such as a passport.

Instead they traverse one of hundreds of illegal dirt road crossings that are ruled by armed criminals dressed in green fatigues. These illegal groups frequently rob and assault migrants who can't pay the equivalent of $10 in Colombian pesos or Venezuelan bolivars, or about half what a Venezuelan earning the minimum wage might make in a month.

Aurelix Lira, 20, and her boyfriend were robbed of their cellphone after being unable to hand over any cash.

"You'll have to pay!" said an armed man who rummaged through their belongings.

Authorities have struggled to wrestle control of the no-man's land between both nations. In the meantime, Venezuelans are being recruited into illegal activities such as drug trafficking.

"They are very much in the wind," said Jeremy McDermott, executive director of InSight Crime, a group that studies organized crime in Latin America, "which makes them extremely vulnerable to exploitation and recruitment by organized crime."

THE WAILING WALL

LOS PATIOS, Colombia—The small stand where Martha Elena Alarcon, 54, sells soda, chips and sugarcane juice is where many migrants fleeing by foot stop for a moment's rest. When Venezuelans began arriving at her doorstep about a year ago, she'd give them water and bread.

As the numbers skyrocketed, she asked them to write a message.

The walls of the tin roof building are now covered in hundreds of messages written on nearly worthless Venezuelan bolivars and bright colored sheets of paper.

Five travelers writing in black ink said they were "walking to a better life thanks to our president, who is either blind or a brute and making everyone in Venezuela flee." One pregnant woman traveling with her 3-year-old old daughter, Sofia, said the journey had been trying and wrote, "God please protect us."

The list of names in each note is one of the only written records documenting who is walking and where. Alarcon recalled how one woman came across the name of a cousin she had not heard from in one of the messages.

"She's OK!" the migrant told her in relief.

A FRIGID PARAMO

TONA, Colombia—The road leading to the city of Bucaramanga passes through a frigid paramo known as "the icebox" that has struck fear into the hearts of migrants unprepared for temperatures down to 10 degrees below freezing.

Marta Duque, 55, welcomes upward of 300 migrants a day into her home in Pamplona, where she gives them food and warm clothes and warns against sleeping outside.

"They are risking their lives and those of their children," she said.

Carlos Valdes, the head of Colombia's forensic medicine office, said he believes walkers have died from the cold but was unable to provide a number. One migrant told the AP he saw a family burying someone on the side of the road. Others have described seeing crosses and stones bearing names and death dates.

Jonathan Suarez, 23, sat with tears streaming down his cheeks as he tried to get a ride. The previous day he had walked 25 hours and slept on the side of the roadway. The thought of his two girls back home - ages 3 and 8 months - kept him going.

"I must press on, for them," he said.

PARQUE DEL AGUA

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia—Public parks across Colombia have turned into makeshift shelters for migrants with nowhere else to go.

On any given day, about 400 Venezuelans convene in the Parque del Agua in Bucaramanga, many fresh from long walks and eager to rest. Pastors deliver sermons and hand out Bibles. Charity groups come with hot meals in Styrofoam containers. And Venezuelans who are complete strangers sleep side by side on top of flattened cardboard boxes.

In some parts of the country, authorities have forcibly removed migrants who convene in public spaces. But many Venezuelans say they are unable to afford even the simplest lodging.

Geraldine Aguilera, 22, a former architecture student, arrived at the park after walking and hitching rides from the border with her sister.

"It's hard sleeping next to people you don't know," she said. "You don't know if they're going to hurt you. But necessity forces you."

ISLANDS OF REFUGE

PEROLES, Colombia—Migrants traverse through extreme temperature changes as they travel through frigid mountaintops and scorching, flat valleys.

As they walk through remote country roads, freighter trucks barrel by, coming within a few feet of Venezuelans trekking along the narrow shoulder.

Much of the journey through Colombia takes them through isolated farmland where gas stations have turned into small islands of refuge for hot, exhausted migrants.

Gas station attendant Manuel Velasquez has seen the migration crisis up close from where he fills up trucks in rural Peroles. Many of the migrants he sees come with their feet blistered and knees swollen, on the verge of collapse from hunger and dehydration. The woman who stands out to him the most was being pushed in a wheelchair to Ecuador for cancer treatment.

"I'm terrified by what is happening," he said.

GETTING A RIDE

LA DORADA, Colombia—When they get lucky, migrants hitch rides or collect enough money to buy bus tickets to reach their next destination.

One of the first rides for migrant Sandra Cadiz and her daughter came on the back of a caravan-style truck, where they clung to the side wooden panels every time the vehicle braked and swerved.

On another long, hot day, a Venezuelan man took them on the back of his motorcycle to a gas station. And about halfway through Colombia, generous bikers, drivers and others who spotted Cadiz and her daughter on the side of the road had given them enough money to purchase bus tickets.

But the vast majority of trucks and cars don't stop for the Venezuelans they see walking. Many have heard stories about migrants committing crimes. Truckers say they'd be fired if bosses found out they were carrying migrants and that their every move is tracked by GPS devices. Others fear incurring heavy fines from police.

DESPERATE MESSAGES

CALI, Colombia—A cellphone is a luxury most poor migrant walkers don't have, so those interviewed by the AP often asked to use their phones to send messages to relatives.

One woman cried into a reporter's cellphone as she sent a message to her mother and toddler son back in Caracas after two days of walking.

"All of this is for you both, mami," she sobbed. "I love you so much."

Another young man arriving by bus in Cali sold his phone to get money for the journey. He used an AP phone to contact the only person he knew in the crime-ridden city — his friend's sister.

"It's Jesus," he wrote her.

"Jesus who?" she responded.

She eventually recognized his name and gave him her address. In a few subsequent messages with his friend, he said his stomach was in knots.

"I've gone about two days without eating," he said.

HOPING TO CROSS

RUMICHACA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE. Colombia/Ecuador border—The bus ride from Cali to Ipiales was full of Venezuelan families with young children crossing into Ecuador.

When they reached the Rumichaca International Bridge, the migrants filed into long lines and stood at least four hours in the cold. Some wore socks for mittens and used bath towels as blankets.

Many women with kids were turned back because they did not have written authorization from their children's father.

Those who did make it across found refugee-style Red Cross tents on the other side. Women and children were quickly escorted onto buses paid for by the Ecuadorean government that would take them all the way to the border with Peru.

Many men would have to wait several days longer.

A LONG WAIT

AGUAS VERDES, Peru—At the crowded Peru-Ecuador border, many young migrants who had walked for weeks complained they'd been waiting days for authorities to process their entry request — and in the meantime weren't given any food or water.

As 21-year-old Jean Paul Flores spoke of his shared frustration to the AP, dozens cheered and applauded in agreement. Flores worked at an international call center in Venezuela and left behind his five-months-pregnant wife. He knew if he stayed, he wouldn't be able to buy diapers for his baby.

"Staying and accompanying her during nine months of pregnancy would mean sacrificing the childhood of my baby," he said. "It's not worth it."

He urged Peruvian officials to let them through swiftly.

"We just want to obtain our objective: To save our families from what is happening there," he said.

SEARCHING FOR A NEW HOME

LIMA, Peru—The capital city of Peru — some 2,700 miles from where migrants start out on foot — is the final destination for growing numbers of migrants.

Over 400,000 Venezuelans now live in the Andean nation, most arriving over the last year. Many are drawn by Peru's economy, which is expected to grow nearly 4 percent this year, faster than other countries in the region.

While some migrants hope they'll return to Venezuela, most interviewed by the AP believed their move would be permanent. Their only hope was to earn enough money so they could bring the rest of their family, too.

Migrant Sandra Cadiz and her daughter initially stayed with her older son and his family, but the landlord of the tiny room didn't want so many people living there. In the week since they've lived in two different shelters.

"I have a home in Venezuela," Cadiz says. "But I don't have one here."

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

$1,000 reward to nail thieves of California hammer sculpture

HEALDSBURG, Calif. (AP)—The artist who created an 800-pound (363 kilograms) sculpture of a hammer that was stolen from a Northern California community center is offering a $1,000 reward to nail the thieves. The Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported Tuesday that Healdsburg artist Doug Unkrey made the offer. He made the 800-pound ball-peen hammer out of mixed metals. It has a long redwood handle and measures 21 feet (6 meters) long and the head is 6 feet (2 meters) tall. The piece, valued at $15,000, was loaned by the artist about a year ago to the Healdsburg Community Center. It vanished from the lawn sometime Oct. 5 or Oct. 6. Unkrey says it would have required about eight people or a flatbed trailer with a winch to carry off his work.

World War II explosive was being used as a garden decoration

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Air Force explosive experts removed a World War II-era artillery rocket that was being used as a garden decoration in a Florida neighborhood. TCPalm.com reports the Army Corps of Engineers were working in a Vero Beach neighborhood Thursday when they noticed the 2-foot (0.6-meter) training rocket. They notified the explosives team at nearby Patrick Air Force Base. Members examined the rocket and said while it appeared to be disarmed it may still contain explosives. The Vero Beach area was a major military training site during World War II and the Air Force believes the rocket came from that era. Contractors have mapped a 20,000-acre area they're searching for buried World War II training ordnance.

Police find stolen doughnut van, share treats with homeless

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—It was a lucky day for some Florida police officers who recovered a stolen van filled with Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Clearwater police posted a photo on Facebook of a group of officers standing in front of the van holding boxes of the tasty treats. The Tampa Bay Times reports the van was reported stolen Tuesday morning in Lake City, which is 193 miles (310 kilometers) north of Clearwater. The van, loaded with doughnuts, was spotted in Clearwater on Tuesday afternoon. The Facebook posting says the store manager donated the cargo to the officers. They saved some doughnuts to eat and handed out the rest to the area's homeless. Authorities are still looking for the van thief.

Goat on road jams morning traffic near DC

GERMANTOWN, Md. (AP)—The appearance of a goat on a road in a Maryland suburb of Washington created traffic delays and an opportunity for county police to come up with many puns. The Washington Post reports the goat was found Monday on Muncaster Mill Road in Germantown, but it's unclear where he came from and how he got on the roadway. A video from a commuter shows a brown goat planted in the middle of the road as cars inch past in the rain. During the eight-second clip, the goat appears mostly unfazed as he looks around. In a tweet, Montgomery County police revealed the goat's name was indeed Billy, calling him the "Greatest of All Time scapegoat" for traffic delays. Police also said they "herd" animal services reunited Billy with his owner.

Rogue pig goes hog wild in traffic

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—It was a classic case of a ham on the lam. Police in Maine's capital city are looking for the owner of a 50-pound piglet that wore itself out while dodging traffic Saturday evening after presumably escaping. The Portland Press Herald reports Augusta police went door to door looking for the animal's owner without any luck. They say the pig is being cared for by a person familiar with farm animals until the owner can be found. The animal was in good condition other than being tired out from running around.

Nobel Prize winner honored with dedicated campus bike rack

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—The University of Missouri is honoring its Nobel Prize-winning scientist with an unusual accolade: a dedicated spot in a bicycle rack. George Smith learned this month that he'll share this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry with two other scientists. Other schools have recognized their Nobel laureates with a dedicated parking space. But the 77-year-old Smith is, by his own assessment, "not a good driver." Smith tells The Kansas City Star he's no "bike enthusiast" but that he lives less than a mile from the Columbia campus and bikes to work every day. His spot will be in a standard bike rack, the same as those used by other bicyclists on campus. But the university plans to post a sign letting everyone know one particular space belongs to a Nobel laureate.

Doritos lure rogue pig back home

HIGHLAND, Calif. (AP)—Deputies in California have used Doritos to lure a pig "the size of a mini horse" back home. The pig was running around a neighborhood when the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office received the call Saturday. One of the deputies had Doritos in her lunch bag. Video shows the deputy leaving a trail of the chips, which the pig followed. Deputies had responded to previous calls about the pig and knew where to take him. He was returned to his pen, and deputies secured the gate.

Willy Wonka' pleads guilty to multiple crimes

SALEM, Mass. (AP)—The leader of a multistate ATM and vehicle burglary ring known as "Willy Wonka" or the "Chocolate Man" has pleaded guilty to 60 charges. The Salem News reports that 47-year-old William "Willy Wonka" Rodriguez pleaded guilty Thursday to his role in crimes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut that netted more than $300,000 in property and currency. The Lawrence man was one of five people arrested in August during a police investigation dubbed Operation Golden Ticket. Rodriguez remains jailed on $500,000 bail pending sentencing Nov. 7 where he faces up to 12 years in prison. Authorities say the gang wore black clothing and masks, carried police scanners, two-way radios and power tools. They often stole vehicles, which they used to crash into businesses so they could steal ATMs.

Home where witch trials victim John Proctor lived for sale

PEABODY, Mass. (AP)—A house where a victim of the Salem witch trials once lived is on the market for $600,000 just in time for Halloween. The nearly 4,000-square-foot (371-sqare-meter) home built in 1638 was once the home of John Proctor, who was convicted of witchcraft and hanged in 1692. The six-bedroom, two-bathroom home is in Peabody, which at the time was part of Salem. Real estate agent Joe Cipoletta, of J. Barrett and Co., said some parts of the original structure, including wooden beams, are still visible. It has been modernized and includes an in-ground pool. The home's owner died earlier this month. Michael Bonfanti, vice president of the Peabody Historical Society, tells The Salem News the organization is looking into whether it's feasible to purchase the home and make it a public resource.

Science & Technology

Breakthrough Prize awardees to get $22M—and star status

BY LISA M. KRIEGER
THE MERCURY NEWS

In a scene out of Hollywood, researchers and celebrities will gather in an ornately choreographed fete in a NASA Ames hangar in early November to celebrate $22 million in prizes for discoveries in math, physics and the life sciences.

The winners of the Breakthrough Prize, announced on Wednesday in advance of the Nov. 4 event, include some of the top thinkers in their fields.

Their discoveries include high-resolution imaging technologies, a new class of drugs, chromosomal disease, innovations in cryptography and a new type of electrical-conducting materials.

The prizes are among the biggest payouts in science. Conceived by theoretical physicist and entrepreneur Yuri Milner, the Breakthrough Prize Foundation aims to create a cultural shift — if scientists are toasted like celebrities, they'll win greater public attention.

Brainiacs will be celebrated in a self-consciously glittery, grand and prestigious event, hosted by actor Pierce Brosnan, where they'll rub shoulders with movie stars and tech titans. In previous years, guests included actors Morgan Freeman, Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher, as well as Spotify co-founder and CEO Daniel Elk, YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki, Udacity co-founder Sebastian Thrum and Virgin Galactic's George Whitesides.

Since the inception of the Breakthrough Prize in 2012, more than $200 million has been awarded to honor critical research.

The prize is funded by Milner and his wife, Julia, Chinese entrepreneur Ma Huateng and several Silicon Valley tech titans: Anne Wojcicki, of 23andMe; Sergey Brin, of Google and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan, a pediatrician at UC San Francisco.

Winners in life sciences:

■ C. Frank Bennett and Adrian R. Krainer of Ionis Pharmaceuticals and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, respectively, for the development of a therapy for children with the neurodegenerative disease spinal muscular atrophy, a rare but devastating disease.

■ Angelika Amon of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Howard Hughes Medical Institute for determining the consequences of an abnormal chromosome number, a disorder called aneuploidy.

■ Xiaowei Zhuang of Harvard University and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, who discovered hidden structures in cells by developing super-resolution imaging — a method that transcends the limits of light microscopy. She earned her PhD at UC Berkeley and did postdoctoral studies at Stanford University.

■ Zhijian "James" Chen of University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Howard Hughes Medical Institute who learned how DNA triggers immune and autoimmune responses from the interior of a cell.

Winner in fundamental physics:

■ Charles Kane and Eugene Mele of the University of Pennsylvania for new ideas about topology and symmetry in physics, leading to the prediction of a new class of materials that conduct electricity only on their surface.

TECH Q&A: How an online bank knows who you are

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: Besides entering my user ID and password, my financial institution makes me verify my identity by entering a personal identification number (PIN) that is sent via text, email or phone call. Even after that, I'm always asked whether my PC is a public or private computer (it's private).

I think I'm asked all this because my PC's internet address isn't recognized. This may be because we have several computers sharing our home network, or because I've enabled DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol), which allows our internet service provider to assign us a different address.

Can I make my PC's internet address stay the same so that it's recognized by the financial site?

A: These efforts to verify your identity aren't related to your PC's IP (internet protocol) address, which isn't a reliable way of proving who you are.

Instead, your financial institution is trying to keep your accounts secure by using two-factor authentication; the PIN forms a second barrier to unauthorized access. As a further security measure, you are asked if the PC is public or private to ensure that no other potential user of that PC can access your accounts.

If it's a public computer, your browser will be given a temporary cookie (a code that identifies you to the financial institution's website). That cookie will disappear once your internet session ends.

If it's a private computer, the same thing will happen unless your financial website allows you to opt in to "enhanced security," in which a permanent cookie is placed in your browser. Contact your financial institution about how you can choose enhanced security and thus avoid being asked more security questions after you log in.

Why don't financial institutions rely on IP addresses to identify their customers? One reason is that most consumers have "dynamic" IP addresses that are assigned and occasionally changed by an internet service provider (you opted in to that by enabling DHCP for your home network). Another is that many consumers have multiple computers sharing a home network; to anyone on the internet, those computers all appear to be using the same IP address.

The primary reason a consumer might want a static, or unchanging, IP address is to run a website from home (the website is easier to manage if its underlying IP address never changes). Note: Internet service providers, including Comcast and CenturyLink that serve your area, charge additional fees for a static IP address.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

California surgeon, girlfriend face new rape, other charges

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A California surgeon and his girlfriend were charged Wednesday with crimes against five additional victims in addition to two women they were previously charged with drugging and sexually assaulting.

Dr. Grant Robicheaux, 38, and his girlfriend, Cerissa Riley, 31, were charged with rape by use of drugs, kidnapping with the intent to commit a sexual offense and other crimes. The pair pleaded not guilty to all counts in court and a judge ordered their bail raised to $1 million each.

Authorities said Robicheaux, who once appeared in a reality TV show called "Online Dating Rituals of the American Male," and Riley met women at social events in and once the women were intoxicated, brought them back to Robicheaux's Newport Beach home and sexually assaulted them, prosecutors said.

"Nobody has a pass to rape or have sexual contact with you once you are unable to give consent," Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said at a press conference.

The couple was initially charged last month in the assault of two women. Prosecutors held a press conference, and then said they received new information that led to the additional charges.

Authorities now believe there could be additional victims in Los Angeles or San Diego counties as well as Nevada, Colorado and Louisiana, said prosecutor Jennifer Walker.

Robicheaux and Riley face up to life in prison if convicted.

During Wednesday's court hearing, Riley turned back briefly to see her friends and family in the courtroom gallery and fought back tears. Afterward, they walked up and hugged her, and she cried, telling them, "thanks for coming."

Reality show doctor Grant Robicheaux and his girlfriend Cerissa Riley, second and third from left, stand outside court in Newport Beach, Calif., following their hearing on new criminal charges involving five additional victims Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018. AP

Philip Cohen, Robicheaux's attorney, said the couple had traveled internationally since a search warrant was served at Robicheaux's home in January and electronics were seized that allegedly contain a trove of video evidence that he has not yet seen.

"It is Grant and Cerissa's absolute position that no non-consensual sex ever took place," Cohen told reporters while standing with the defendants outside the courthouse in Newport Beach, California.

Both defendants posted bail and are due back in court on Jan. 18.

In a statement, the couple said they had "great friends, great lives and great careers" before they were arrested last month and added: "We look forward to getting our lives back."

The charges span from 2009 to 2018 and also include possession for sale of cocaine, ecstasy and the drug GHB. Robicheaux also is charged with illegal possession of two assault weapons.

Michael Buble shuts down rumors of retirement from music

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Buble is shutting down rumors that he's going to retire from music, saying he was misquoted in a recent interview.

Buble

Buble told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he is not planning on retiring anytime soon. He disputes an Oct. 13 interview published in the Daily Mail that said he would quit music after the release of his upcoming album "Love," due Nov. 16.

The report suggested the Grammy-winning singer was stepping away from music for good following his son Noah's cancer battle, but Buble said the story is false.

"I'll keep going until the news of my death comes out, which will probably be fake too," he said with a chuckle. "At that point, you're really famous now. Things are really going well on this record. Buble is hanging with Elvis. ... Buble and Elvis having fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches together."

The Canadian singer took a two-year break from public life to spend time with his family before recording his eighth studio album. He and his wife, actress Luisana Lopilato, have two sons, Elias and Noah, together and welcomed a baby girl named Vida Amber Betty in July.

The singer said he learned about the report after receiving text messages from a couple friends. In reply to his friends, he told them: "Consider the source."

Buble called the Daily Mail report "negative energy." As a public figure, he said he understands it comes with the territory but still doesn't want to deal with it.

"I'm not strong enough to deal with it, so I don't deal with it," he said. "By the way, those friends that wrote me, I said to them 'Thank you so much for caring about my well-being. Do me a favor, don't share it with me. Send me pictures of your kids and tell me how you're doing, because I much rather know about that.'"

Film with Fan Bingbing, Bruce Willis canceled after tax case

BEIJING (AP)—The director of "Air Strike," featuring Chinese actress Fan Bingbing, says the film's release has been canceled in the wake of her disappearance and conviction on tax evasion charges.

The World War II thriller, also starring Bruce Willis and Adrien Brody, was to have been released Oct. 26.

However, director Xiao Feng posted on his Weibo miniblog Wednesday that it was "time to let go" after eight years of work on the film.

Chinese tax authorities this month ordered Fan and companies she represents to pay taxes and penalties totaling $130 million, ending speculation over the fate of one of the country's highest-profile entertainers three months after she disappeared from public view.

State media said Fan evaded taxes by using two separate contracts for her work on "Air Strike."

Fan has starred in dozens of movies and TV series in China and is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014's "X-Men: Days of Future Past," a cameo in the Chinese version of "Iron Man 3," and for star turns on the red carpet at Cannes as recently as May.

Before her disappearance, she had been booked to star with Penelope Cruz in the Hollywood film "355."

Fan posted an apology on her official Weibo account saying that she accepted the tax authorities' decision and would "try my best to overcome all difficulties and raise funds to pay back taxes and fines."

"I am unworthy of the trust of the society and let down the fans who love me," she wrote in her first update of her Weibo.com microblog since June 2.

Fan's disappearance coincided with a crackdown by Chinese authorities on high salaries for actors that can eat up much of the cost of a production. In June, regulators capped star pay at 40 percent of a TV show's entire production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to all the actors in a film.

New accusation of police wrongdoing in Weinstein case

NEW YORK (AP)—The sexual assault case against Harvey Weinstein was roiled Wednesday for the second time in a week by what New York City prosecutors said was a police detective's improper conduct.

Det. Nicholas DiGaudio, whose alleged witness coaching prompted the dismissal of part of the case last week, is now accused of urging one of Weinstein's accusers to delete material from her cellphones before she handed them over to prosecutors.

The Manhattan district attorney's office detailed the alleged misconduct in a letter to Weinstein's lawyer that was made public Wednesday. The new allegations involve the detective's interactions with an unidentified woman who says Weinstein raped her in his Manhattan hotel room in 2013.

Weinstein's lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, pounced on the revelation, saying it "even further undermines the integrity of this already deeply flawed indictment of Mr. Weinstein."

In her letter, Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon said that during the investigation, prosecutors asked the woman to hand in any mobile phones she might have used during the time when she interacted with Weinstein.

The woman was willing to do so, Illuzzi-Orbon wrote, but was worried that the phones contained, "in addition to communications with the defendant, data of a personal nature that she regarded as private."

She asked DiGaudio what to do. He advised her to delete anything she didn't want anyone else to see before handing over the phone, the prosecutors said.

"We just won't tell Joan," DiGaudio allegedly said.

Illuzzi-Orbon said the woman didn't delete any information and instead asked a lawyer for advice. The phones were turned over "without any deletions" Illuzzi-Orbon wrote.

The lawyer hired by the woman contacted the district attorney's office about the detective's conduct on Oct. 10.

Banksy posts video saying incomplete shredding a malfunction

Banksy posted a new video to his website Tuesday implying the partial shredding of his "Girl With Balloon" at a London auction was supposed to have been complete.

The video shows the famously anonymous artist constructing the shredding mechanism inside an ornate frame and pushing a button in a black box to activate the destruction at Sotheby's in London earlier this month. The act shocked the crowd, but the winning bidder, a European collector, went ahead and bought it anyway for $1.4 million, according to the auction house.

Sotheby's did not name the buyer.

The partial shredding drew speculation that the act was a stunt to increase the value of the painting of a young girl reaching for a heart-shaped red balloon. The canvas was shredded to right above the girl's head, leaving the balloon intact. The end of the new video notes: "In rehearsals it worked every time..." A complete shredding of the same design is then shown.

The nearly 3-minute long video is titled, "Shred the Love, the Director's cut." It shows hands and a hooded figure (Banksy is fond of hoodies) constructing the mechanism in a studio space, then it rolls on to the outside of Sotheby's before the auction. People milling about sipping Champagne and nibbling hors d'oeuvres are next up, including some standing in front of the painting.

The auction and partial shredding are shown, as is the work being taken off the wall at Sotheby's and carried out of the room.

Banksy has never disclosed his full identity. He began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world's best-known artists. His mischievous and often satirical images include two policemen kissing, armed riot police with yellow smiley faces and a chimpanzee with a sign bearing the words, "Laugh now, but one day I'll be in charge."

His "Girl With Balloon" was originally stenciled on a wall in east London and has been endlessly reproduced, becoming one of Banksy's best-known images. ***(AP)***

Harry and Meghan bring rain to drought-stricken Outback town

DUBBO, Australia (AP)— The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were jokingly thanked for bringing England's notoriously inclement weather to a drought-stricken Outback town on Wednesday in a rain-drenched visit to Dubbo during their Australian royal tour.

The former Meghan Markle brought banana bread that she baked in Sydney on Tuesday as a gift to a farming family outside Dubbo who were struggling to feed their cattle and sheep through two years of below-average rain.

"When she heard she was coming to a family home, she had to bring a plate, so it was lovely," farmer Elaine Woodley said, referring to a dish to be shared.

The pregnant American former actress and her husband, Prince Harry, got their hands dirty throwing cotton seed onto hay used to feed the cows because of a lack of pasture.

Heavy rain started falling when the royal couple arrived later at a Dubbo park for a community picnic, but thousands of cheering well-wishers remained enthusiastic.

"As your royal highnesses are aware, our region has been hit by a terrible drought," Mayor Ben Shields told the drenched crowd draped with waterproof ponchos and holding umbrellas, who erupted in laughter.

"So we're very pleased that you can bring some of that English weather with you today, and hopefully it will bring some relief to the farming families," Shields added.

While rain in recent weeks has been welcome, much more is needed to repair the economic and environmental ravages of the extended dry spell.

Drought conditions in New South Wales state this year have been the most widespread since 1965.

Meghan held an umbrella over Harry as he gave a speech, acknowledging the hardships the drought brought to the rural community and urging drought victims not to suffer in silence.

The crowd applauded when Harry touched on his own mental health struggles following the death of his mother, Princess Diana, in a car crash in a Paris tunnel in 1997. He was 12 at the time. Harry, now 34, revealed in an interview last year that he did not seek counseling until he was in his late 20s.

"You are all in this together and, if I may speak personally, we are all in this together," Harry said. "Because asking for help was one of the best decisions that I ever made. You will be continually amazed how life changes for the better."

The prince ended by thanking Dubbo for its invitation and for sharing its stories, adding, "And the rain was a gift."

Drought relief charity Drought Angels director Natasha Johnston commended the couple for their empathy.

"To have them recognize that our farmers are hurting, and show up here, it's an honor," Johnston said.

"It's been unbelievably tough. We've had families who can't put food on the table, who can't afford everyday basics, who can't afford water to fill their tanks," she added.

On arrival at Dubbo airport, the couple appeared delighted when 5-year-old Luke Vincent, who has Down Syndrome, hugged them both and ruffled Harry's hair and beard.

Luke's school principal Anne van Dartel said she had told the students that they were not to reach out to the royals. She suspected Harry's beard reminded Luke of his favorite celebrity, Santa Claus.

"I was very concerned once he started rubbing Prince Harry's face and his hair, but Prince Harry was completely gracious and was so polite and realized what was happening and (Luke's) infatuation with his beard," van Dartel told Seven Network television.

Luke told later told Nine Network television that Harry had surpassed Santa in his estimation.

Harry and Meghan are on a 16-day tour of Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand.

BIG BIRD AP

In this April 10, 2008 file photo, Big Bird reads to Connor Scott and Tiffany Jiao during a taping of Sesame Street in New York. The puppeteer who has played Big Bird on "Sesame Street" is retiring after nearly 50 years on the show. Caroll Spinney tells the New York Times that Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, was his last day on the program, which he joined from the start in 1969. In addition to Big Bird, the 84-year-old was also Oscar the Grouch.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Chaka Khan named 2019 Rose Parade grand marshal

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Chaka Khan has been named grand marshal of the 2019 Rose Parade, which will feature the theme, "The Melody of Life." Tournament of Roses President Gerald Freeny announced the selection Wednesday. He saluted the Grammy Award-winning singer's efforts as an activist and praised her gourmet dark chocolates. She sells her own line of gourmet chocolates called "Chakalates." Khan will ride through Pasadena, California, in the 130th Rose Parade on New Year's Day and participate in the celebration before the 105th Rose Bowl game, which will be a college football playoff semifinal. Khan is known for her array of hits including "I'm Every Woman," ''Ain't Nobody" and "Through the Fire." After the announcement, Khan said she was honored by her selection as grand marshal.

Gustavo Dudamel wins the Gish Prize, a top arts honor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Philharmonic conductor Gustavo Dudamel has been named the recipient of a top arts prize worth approximately $250,000 for his craft and music education advocacy. The 37-year-old Venezuelan conductor will receive the 25th annual Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize during a ceremony Dec. 4 at New York's Lincoln Center. Architect Frank Gehry, a previous Gish Prize recipient, will be among those who speak at the ceremony. The prize is named for the Gish sisters, who were early Hollywood stars and made large donations to benefit the arts community upon their deaths. Dudamel says in a statement that he is humbled by the recognition, and that it makes him want to redouble his efforts to have the arts reach as many people as possible. He serves as the music and artistic director of the LA Philharmonic and has stressed the importance of music education during appearances at the White House, United Nations and during a 2017 the Nobel Prize Concert.

Grown child keeps meetings with ex-stepfather a secret from mom

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my first year of college, my mother divorced my stepdad. "Charlie" was part of my life for 12 years, but since their divorce, she insists I have no contact with him. Charlie visits the state where I now live several times a year to see a friend and invites me to have dinner with him. I do, but because of Mom's demand, I ask him to keep our time together a secret. If she knew we were in contact, I think she would cut me out of her life.

Growing up, Charlie was a father figure to me—a very important person in my life. Spending time with him is awkward, but it would feel wrong to never see him again. We were family for many years. I feel that as an adult, I should be able to decide for myself who I stay in contact with. I don't know the whole story about their breakup, and honestly, I don't care to know. Should I honor my mother's wishes and have no more contact with him, or go with my gut and keep him in my life?

FORGIVE OR FORGET OUT WEST

DEAR FORGIVE: Go with your gut. As an adult, you do have the right to choose with whom you associate, and your mother should not be insisting upon it with no explanation.

DEAR ABBY: I have an etiquette question I can't find an answer to on the internet. My family travels a great deal, and there are always unattended wheelchairs parked around the airport. My teenage brother thinks it's perfectly fine to get in them and start playing with them, because "no one's using them." The rest of my family thinks it's rude to use a wheelchair as a toy. How do you view this and how should my parents explain it to him? Thanks.

CLAIRE IN FLORIDA

DEAR CLAIRE: Assistive devices are not toys, and they should not be "played with" by those who don't need to use them. That's how I view it. Have your parents actually TOLD your brother "No"? If they have and he does it anyway, it's time for them to act like parents, make clear that there are consequences for disobedience and follow through.

DEAR ABBY: My son recently graduated with a master's degree. He's a fine young man, did extremely well all through his schooling and has never given his father or me a second of worry. He has not been able to find a job. It's frustrating for him and discouraging, but we know he will, and we encourage him any way we can.

My question is how do I deal with the barrage of inquiries from neighbors, hairstylist, co-workers and friends who constantly ask if he has found a job yet? I am sick of it! It's none of their business, and I never ask them anything about their families' employment. Please help.

MISSOURI MOM

DEAR MOM: Handle it this way. Say, "When he does, I'll let you know." Then change the subject.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

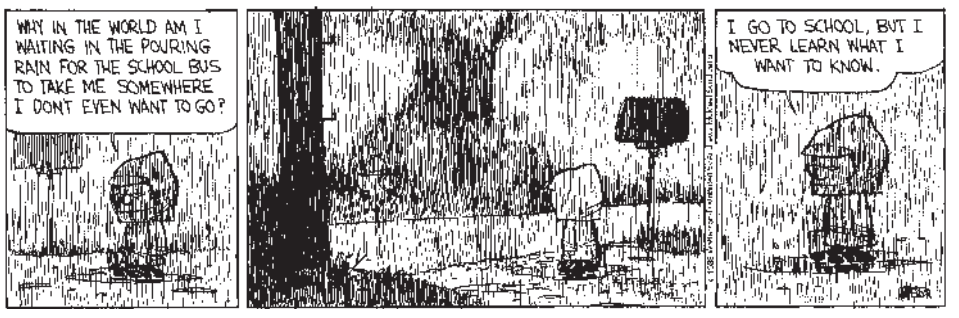
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHY IN THE WORLD AM I WAITING IN THE POURING RAIN FOR THE SCHOOL BUS TO TAKE ME SOMEWHERE I DON'T EVEN WANT TO GO?
I GO TO SCHOOL, BUT I NEVER LEARN WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

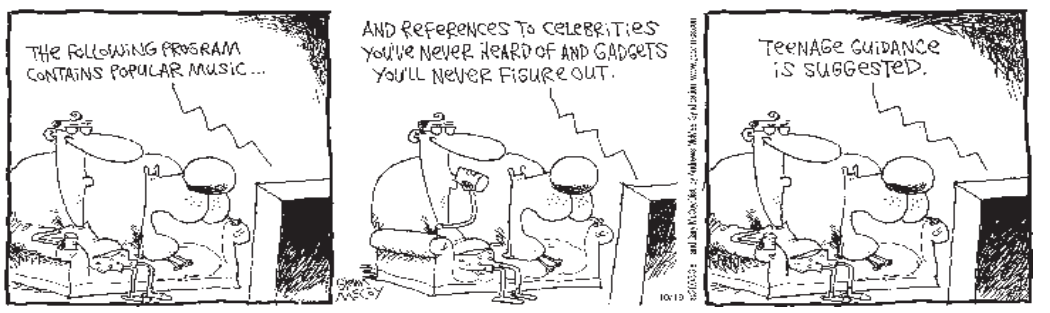
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, THIS IS YOUR YEAR FOR HAUNTED HOUSE REDEMPTION!
LET'S GO TO SCREAMVILLE AND CONQUER YOUR ISSUES!
SIGH.
FINE. BUT I NEED TO TRAIN FOR IT.
SCARE CAMP COMIN' ATCHA!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM CONTAINS POPULAR MUSIC...
AND REFERENCES TO CELEBRITIES YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF AND GADGETS YOU'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT.
TEENAGE GUIDANCE IS SUGGESTED.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

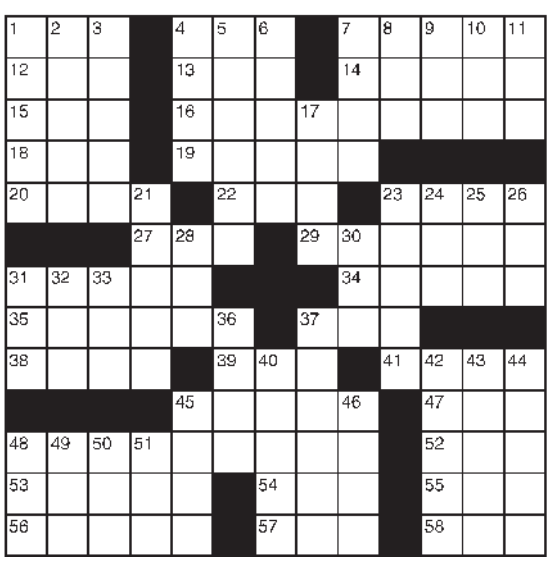
ACROSS
1 Pint-sized
4 Venomous viper
7 Make invalid
12 Actress Merkel
13 Sheep call
14 Game of chance
15 ICU pros
16 Linda Ronstadt hit song
18 Take to court
19 1945 conference site
20 Cash drawer
22 Aussie hopper
23 Slightly
27 Glacial
29 "Enough!"
31 Not vacant
34 Humiliate
35 Red wine
37 Scrape (out)
38 Corn recipe
39 Mardi Gras VIP
41 Judicial garb
45 Danger
47 Peace, to Caesar
48 Linda Ronstadt hit song
52 — Dhabi
53 Talked a blue streak?
54 Sault — Marie
55 Flushed
56 Proverb
57 Curvy letter
58 Mao — -tung

DOWN
1 German sausage
2 Boredom
3 Painter's stand
4 "Dear —"
5 Periodic pay
6 Sao —, Brazil
7 "Mamma Mia" group
8 PBS funder
9 Aye canceler
10 Popular card game
11 Singer Rawls
17 Thames town
21 Cotton thread
23 Traffic light color
24 Fluffy scarf
25 Apr. addressee
26 Golf prop
28 Biz bigwig
30 Sturdy tree
31 Little rascal
32 Opposite of paleo-
33 Ornate vase
36 Nest setting
37 Is real
40 Obliterate
42 Dizzying designs
43 Innocents
44 Give forth
45 Work by Maya Angelou
46 Caustic cleaners
48 Doctrine
49 Former Delta rival
50 Boston team, for short
51 Lanka lead-in

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	U	V		S	L	O	G		E	A	S	E
I	S	A		H	I	R	E		A	U	L	D
V	A	N	H	A	L	E	N		G	R	O	G
			O	F	D		U		I	A	B	Y
R	O	U	S	E	D		S	E	E			
U	R	I		S	E	T		A	T	S	E	A
T	E	S			F	I	R		S	U	C	H
F	O	F	U	M		P	E	C		L	O	O
			R	A	T		F	R	I	L	L	Y
C	H	A	R	G	E	R		E	M			
A	A	F	E		C	O	R	D	O	V	A	N
S	L	I			H	O	B	O		A	D	O
F	O	O	S		S	K	I	S		N	A	M

Yesterday's answer 10-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 31; Esperanza Spalding, 34; Freida Pinto, 34; Wynton Marsalis, 57.

Happy Birthday: Look at the past, evaluate the present and consider what you want to do next. You'll learn a lot through observation. Positive change happens when you set a goal and put a strategy in place that will help you reach your destination. Live, learn and do your best to replace what isn't working for you anymore with something that will. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 24, 27, 39, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider the possibilities and call in the help you need to get things done. Collaborating with people who are innovative and show interest in what you are doing will lead to future endeavors. Don't fear change; embrace what's being offered. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Know what you are up against and who is on your side. Pick your associates carefully and for the right reasons. Don't let emotions interfere in doing what's best. Partnerships should be questioned if equality isn't maintained. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* The goals you set will require energy, enthusiasm and determination, but in the end, you can come out on top if you are relentless and refuse to let what others do interfere with your plans. Don't let uncertainty hold you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be aware of what others want you to do, but don't go against your better judgment to please. Stick to your plan, and use your intelligence, not your emotions, to make choices. You can be thoughtful and loving without giving in. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Focus on your needs, and refrain from getting involved in something you know isn't good for you in order to keep the peace. Focus on saving and doing things that will ensure you remain healthy and fit. Be good to yourself. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Talk matters through. You'll be able to make plans with someone you want to spend more time with. Love, romance and long-term partnerships are favored and will encourage making positive changes that will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't give in to someone pressuring you to do things you don't want to do. Set the record straight and speak up about what you want. Change begins within, and it's time for you to follow your heart, not someone else's demands. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Think twice before making a decision that will affect those you live with. An emotional situation will surface if you haven't been up-front about your plans. Find a positive way to convey your ideas that offers something for everyone involved. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Sharing with others may undermine what you are trying to accomplish. Someone is likely to use your openness against you. Don't be gullible or you will end up in a compromising position. Do your own thing to avoid interference. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't limit what you can do because someone is being pushy or creating unexpected changes to make your life difficult. Form plans and set priorities. It's up to you to say no when someone or something is working against you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look over your personal finances and the deals you have made or the ones you are considering. Consider the costs involved and alternative choices that will save you from excessive expenses. Moderation is favored, emotional spending is not. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Check the rules and regulations before you get involved in something that may not be up to institutional standards. Doing things by the book will lead to positive changes and opportunities that will encourage personal gains. Don't reveal personal secrets. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are benevolent, wise and generous. You are resourceful and intense.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6 8	5			1		7 9
		7	3			
	2		4	7	5	
	7		3	1	6	
1		6		2		3
3	9			8		1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	2	1	8	7	9	4	6	3
6	7	3	2	4	1	8	5	9
4	8	9	3	5	6	1	7	2
1	4	6	5	8	3	2	9	7
7	5	8	9	2	4	3	1	6
3	9	2	1	6	7	5	4	8
8	6	5	7	1	2	9	3	4
9	1	7	4	3	8	6	2	5
2	3	4	6	9	5	7	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROBIN LEACH (1941-2018) Solution: 13 letters

R	A	T	S	M	A	E	R	D	R	A	I	V	A	C
R	E	V	R	E	S	B	O	W	O	R	R	A	H	E
O	F	R	E	R	S	E	M	A	G	E	M	A	F	L
T	I	O	N	H	T	I	D	U	J	A	M	C	R	E
I	L	B	G	G	E	R	G	O	X	P	O	S	E	B
D	L	I	L	I	V	C	A	E	A	O	P	T	S	R
E	A	N	A	H	E	N	D	G	K	A	E	Y	S	I
C	E	E	N	N	N	O	N	B	V	I	O	L	E	T
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Kershaw dominant, Dodgers near World Series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw bounced back from one of his worst postseason starts with one of his best, pitching the Los Angeles Dodgers past the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 Wednesday to move one win from a return trip to the World Series.

The Dodgers took a 3-2 lead in the NL Championship Series, boosted by Max Muncy's go-ahead single in the sixth inning. Kershaw held the lead, scoring an insurance run in the seventh and then exiting.

"To go back to Milwaukee up 3-2 as opposed to being down 3-2 is huge for us," Kershaw said. "It's been a battle every single game we've played them so far and we don't expect anything different when we go back."

Game 6 is Friday night in Milwaukee. The Brewers will start left-hander Wade Miley, who walked Cody Bellinger to open Game 5 before getting pulled in an interesting piece of strategy by manager Craig Counsell. Lefty Hyun-Jin Ryu will go for the Dodgers.

"We're in a good spot, man," Counsell said. "We're going back home, to me, in a position of strength."

The Dodgers haven't been in back-to-back World Series since losing to the Yankees in 1977 and '78. They were beaten by Houston in Game 7 last year.

The teams reconvened less than 15 hours after the Dodgers eked out a 2-1 victory Tuesday night on Cody Bellinger's RBI single with two outs in a 13-inning game that lasted over five hours.

Kershaw was well-rested and masterful in allowing one run and three hits over seven. He struck out nine, all on breaking pitches, and walked two.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws during the first inning of Game 5 of the National League Championship Series baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Kershaw recovered from the shortest postseason start of his career. He lasted just three innings in losing the NLCS opener while giving up five runs—four earned—at Miller Park.

"I don't know if it was that much better, just a little bit better execution maybe," Kershaw said of his repertoire. "Maybe I threw some more curveballs today than I did in Game 1."

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner pitched in and out of trouble in the third, when the Brewers loaded the bases and scored their lone run. Kershaw struck out Jesus Aguilar to end the third, the first of 13 consecutive batters that the left-hander retired.

Curtis Granderson hit an RBI double in the ninth. Kenley Jansen, the Dodgers' third pitcher of the ninth, came in for the last two outs and the save.

Brewers star Christian Yelich, who nearly won the NL Triple Crown this season, was hitless in four at-bats. He is 3 for 20 without an RBI in the NLCS.

The Dodgers' offense broke loose with five runs over the fifth, sixth and seventh innings that had the sellout crowd of 54,502 on its feet whipping blue towels and cheering loudly.

The team that hit a franchise and NL-leading 235 home runs in the regular season did it playing small ball instead, driving in all but one of its runs on singles.

Tied 1-all, Muncy grounded a 1-2 pitch from Brandon Woodruff into left field, scoring Justin Turner, who led off with a single. Yasiel Puig singled to center with two outs, bringing home Manny Machado after he was hit by a pitch from Corbin Burnes.

Los Angeles extended the lead to 5-1 in the seventh on Turner's RBI single that scored Kershaw, who walked, and pinch-hitter Brian Dozier's RBI groundout.

Kershaw has struggled in the postseason during his career, with his numbers never matching his excellence during the regular season.

Red Sox hold off Astros to open 3-1 ALCS lead

HOUSTON (AP)—Left fielder Andrew Benintendi made a diving catch with the bases loaded for the final out, and the Boston Red Sox held off the Houston Astros 8-6 Wednesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the AL Championship Series.

Boosted by a questionable fan interference call and another home run from Jackie Bradley Jr. in a gripping, back-and-forth game, the Red Sox moved within one victory of their first World Series trip since winning the 2013 title.

Craig Kimbrel earned a shaky six-out save, aided by a rocket throw from right fielder Mookie Betts and Benintendi's daring grab of Alex Bregman's sinking liner in left. Had the ball scooted past a charging Benintendi, it easily could have scored three runs and won the game for Houston.

"Beni took a shot. Had a great jump. And he got it," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said.

Instead, the Red Sox improved to 4-0 on the road in these playoffs and inched closer to eliminating the defending World Series champions.

"This game was incredibly good on both sides—great at-bats, great plays," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "The difference in that game literally was a couple inches."

Game 5 is Thursday night in Houston, where ace Justin Verlander will pitch for the Astros with their season on the line. David Price, who was warming up in the bullpen late in Game 4, will start for Boston on three days' rest after Chris Sale was ruled out Wednesday while recovering from a stomach illness.

Bradley hit a go-ahead homer in the sixth inning, his latest huge swing for a Red Sox team that was knocked out of the postseason by Houston in the Division Series last year.

Boston has won three straight after a Game 1 loss, and this one came with some controversy after Houston star Jose Altuve was denied a two-run homer in the first inning and called out because of fan interference.

"Jose pays the biggest price because the trajectory of the ball looked like it was going to leave the ballpark," Hinch said. "Changed that whole inning."

Boston trailed by one with two outs in the sixth when Christian Vazquez doubled to deep right-center. Center fielder George Springer nearly made a leaping catch, but the ball glanced off his glove.

Bradley, who hit a grand slam in Game 3 and a three-run double in Game 2, put the Red Sox on top 6-5 with his soaring shot to right field on the next pitch from rookie Josh James.

"I'm very proud of him, what he's done in the second part of the season and what he's done tonight and in this series. It's amazing," Cora said.

Boston got some insurance in the seventh when Lance McCullers walked in a run after taking over for Ryan Pressly with the bases loaded and two outs. J.D. Martinez padded the lead further with an RBI single in the eighth.

Houston cut the lead to two on an RBI groundout by Altuve in the eighth. Right fielder Josh Reddick made a diving catch of Betts' sinking liner with the bases loaded to end the top of the ninth.

Red Sox starter Rick Porcello allowed seven hits and four runs over four innings in a wild game that took 4 hours, 33 minutes. Joe Kelly was the winner after giving up a run in the fifth.

Astros cleared of cheating, GM says teams jealous

HOUSTON—Major League Baseball cleared the Houston Astros of any illegal activity Wednesday, but ordered them to stop doing surveillance on teams they suspect of cheating by using electronic equipment to steal signs.

Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow vehemently denied any wrongdoing in an impromptu news conference, saying the Astros have never used illegal surveillance to steal signs, only to detect whether their opponents were cheating. Luhnow said the team had reported several incidents this past season to MLB's commissioner's office.

"We were playing defense, we were not playing offense," Luhnow said. "We wanted to make sure it was a level playing field….We look around to make sure there's nothing suspicious going on. We want to make sure our signs aren't getting stolen.

"So we do it every stadium we go into. We dispatch someone from the travel party to go out to center field, look at a particular area that might be suspicious or a certain monitor. I'm sure other clubs do this as well, but we're just trying to protect ourselves the best we can. ...

"There have been multiple incidents of us identifying suspicious activity, and we've reported it to MLB. We've looked into it ourselves in certain instances. It's happening out there. I'm not going to talk about which teams, but it does exist."

"I feel like it's been part of the game, a fabric of the game, for a long time. I believe technology (is) enabling ways of communicating and ways of capturing real-time information that weren't available to teams, five, 10 years ago," Luhnow said. "So we're all learning how to operate in this new world, and MLB is learning how to make sure there are rules in place."

The Astros used an employee to monitor the Boston Red Sox dugout with a cell phone camera from the first-base photographer's well in the first three innings of the American League Championship Series Game 1 at Fenway Park. The Red Sox security, which received a tip from the Cleveland Indians that this employee— identified as Kyle McLaughlin by Yahoo Sports—would be trying to steal signs, escorted him from the area in the third inning. McLaughlin, who is listed by the Astros as a social media employee, erased it from his biography late Tuesday night after Boston Metro reported the incident.

A second incident was reported by the Indians during the AL Division Series, according to Cleveland.com

DeRozan, Aldridge lift Spurs over T-Wolves

AP
Minnesota Timberwolves guard Jeff Teague (0) dives over San Antonio Spurs guard Marco Belinelli (18) for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, in San Antonio. San Antonio won, 112-108.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan had 28 points in his San Antonio debut, LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points and 19 rebounds and the Spurs overcame a 23-point performance by Minnesota's Jimmy Butler in a 112-108 victory Wednesday night in a matchup of teams coming off a tumultuous offseason.

DeRozan was acquired from Toronto after the Spurs responded to Kawhi Leonard's trade demands by dealing their star forward and Danny Green for the Raptors' All-Star guard and Jakob Poeltl.

Minnesota is facing a similar trade demand from Butler, who has opted to play through it. Butler, who has told Minnesota that he will not resign with the team in the offseason, added seven rebounds and three assists in an active 31 minutes.

DeRozan banked in the eventual winning shot in the final minute against Butler, driving hard to the basket against the 6-foot-8 forward and then pulling up from 12 feet to give San Antonio a 110-108 lead with 32.4 seconds remaining. DeRozan sealed the victory with a pair of free throws with 7.8 seconds remaining after Minnesota's Derrick Rose missed a runner in lane.

Jeff Teague scored 27 points, and Andrew Wiggins added 20 points for the Timberwolves.

Knicks 126, Hawks 107

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 31 points, sparking the Knicks during their franchise-record, 49-point second quarter, and Knicks beat Atlanta in its first game under coach David Fizdale.

Hardaway had 16 points in the period, when the Knicks matched the Hawks' point total for the entire first half. New York led 72-49 at the break.

Trae Young finished with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists, shooting 5 for 14 in his NBA debut. Taurean Prince scored 21 points for the Hawks, who were overwhelmed in their first game under Lloyd Pierce. Four other Knicks scored at least 15, while rookie Kevin Knox finished with 10 and was just 4 for 16.

Hardaway and the Knicks started slowly, as he had missed his first four shots and the Knicks started 0 for 9 when they took a timeout trailing 10-2. During that break, George Holmes of Northport, New York, nailed a halfcourt shot to win $10,000, and suddenly the New Yorkers couldn't miss.

Pelicans 131, Rockets 112

In Houston, Anthony Davis had 32 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists, and Nikola Mirotic scored 30 points to lead New Orleans past Houston.

Davis added three blocks and three steals, Mirotic was 6 of 8 from 3-point range, and Julius Randle had 25 points off the bench.

Eric Gordon led the Rockets with 21 points off the bench, and P.J. Tucker and Chris Paul each added 19 points.

Bucks 113, Hornets 112

In Charlotte, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points, 18 rebounds and eight assists, and Milwaukee spoiled Charlotte's celebration of 30 years of basketball.

Antetokounmpo made two free throws with 23.7 seconds remaining to put the Bucks ahead after the Hornets battled back from a 20-point deficit behind 41 points from Kemba Walker.

Walker missed a driving layup with 3.4 seconds left and the loose ball got kicked outside where Nic Batum misfired on a 3-pointer from the left wing at the buzzer.

Khris Middleton had 19 points and Eric Bledsoe added 17 as the Bucks.

Pacers 111, Grizzlies 83

In Indianapolis, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 to help Indiana rout Memphis in the largest-opening night victory margin in the franchise's NBA era.

Domantas Sabonis finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds as Indiana earned its seventh opening-night win eight years. The Pacers also have won eight of their last nine home openers.

Raptors 116, Cavaliers 104

In Toronto, Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 12 rebounds in his Toronto debut, Kyle Lowry scored 27 points and the Raptors beat Cleveland.

Fred VanVleet scored 14 points, Pascal Siakam had 13 and Danny Green 11 to help the Raptors win their sixth straight season opener and give Nick Nurse a victory in his first game as head coach.

Kevin Love scored 21 points, and Cedi Osman had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Pistons 103, Nets 100

In Detroit, Andre Drummond had 24 points and 20 rebounds, and Detroit won its opener under new coach Dwane Casey.

Blake Griffin added 26 points for the Pistons, who were without two potential starters but still managed to hold off Brooklyn. Caris LeVert equaled a career high with 27 points for the Nets, and he drove to the basket in the final seconds with Brooklyn down one. LeVert lost the ball, and it went out of bounds to Detroit.

Magic 104, Heat 101

In Orlando, rookie Mohamed Bamba dunked twice and blocked a shot during Orlando's 9-0 run in the fourth quarter and the Magic held off Miami.

Aaron Gordon had 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic. They went without a field goal over the final 4 1/2 minutes. Goran Dragic led Miami with 26 points, and Josh Richardson had 21.

Jazz 123, Kings 117

In Sacramento, Donovan Mitchell scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Utah overcame an uneven performance on both ends of the floor to beat Sacramento in the season opener for both teams.

Rudy Gobert had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Joe Ingles scored 22 and Derrick Favors added 18 points and nine boards as the Jazz won their sixth straight against the Kings.

Utah trailed by 16 early in the first quarter, blew a 14-point lead in the third and then pulled away in the fourth.

Seven players scored in double figures for Utah.

Willie Cauley-Stein had 23 points and seven rebounds for Sacramento. De'Aaron Fox added 21 points and seven assists.

Kanoa Resort beats Pacific Postal Plus

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Kanoa Resort outclassed Pacific Postal Plus, 67-62, in the lone game played in the IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Mixed Masters Brotherhood Basketball League last Wednesday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Kanoa-Pacific Postal was a clash of contrasting playing styles. Kanoa had 10 players contributing on offense, while Pacific Postal leaned heavily on Jestoni Pineda and Rommel Usi.

One of the many scorers for Kanoa was Jerald Rivera, who found early success with his shot as he bagged 10 markers or almost half of the Krushers' 21-point output in the first quarter. Fradel Sedillo added 7 to hand Kanoa the shaky lead, 21-20.

The trio of Pineda, Usi, and Ryan Odicta proved to be troublesome for Kanoa in the first quarter as they combined for Pacific Postal Plus' 20 points to lurk behind their foe.

The second period was just as close as the first and ended in a deadlock, 36-all, with both teams getting contributions from multiple players.

After the neck-and-neck battle in the first half, Kanoa finally gained cushion in the third. Kanoa continued to run a balance offense with eight of its players taking turns in finding the bottom of the net, while it held Pacific Postal to 9 points. The combination of Kanoa's stifling defense and unselfish play put the team on top by double digits, 56-45, going into the final canto.

With Pacific Postal behind, Usi took over the scoring load for Pacific Postal, but his 10-point outburst in the fourth period proved to be too little, too late. Kanoa, on the other hand, managed to stay on top and secure the win, thanks to a pair of free throws from Sedillo and a split from Rivera.

Sedillo top-scored for Kanoa with his 15 points, while Rivera finished with 13, and Dindo Pablo and Rommel Quintip combined for 17. Pineda, Usi, and Odicta turned in 21, 20, and 11 markers, respectively for Pacific Postal, which dropped to a 2-3 record. Kanoa improved to a 2-2 mark.

Meanwhile, Kensington Hotel (4-1) was awarded the automatic win after Imperial Pacific International (0-6) forfeited the second match last Wednesday. IPI is out of the competition and its opponents will be given the outright victories.

Kanoa 67— Sedillo 15, Rivera 13, Pablo 9, Quintip 8, Tenepere 7, Bata 4, Lumauag 4, Bustillo 3, Fejeren 2, Sison 2

Pacific Postal 62 — J. Pineda 21, Usi 20, Odicta 11, Broucano 8, Abanlog 2

Scoring by quarters: 21-20, 36-36, 56-45, 67-62.

Fun in the Son 5K Fun Run tomorrow

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship will hold the Fun in the Son 5K Run tomorrow.

Race organizer and pastor of Life in the Son Christian Fellowship Eric Abragan said the weekend run is open to the public and the first 100 to register will receive complimentary shirts. Registration can be made online at www.5k.lifeinthesonsaipan.org or at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion at 5:30am on race day. The race will start at 6:30am.

"Runners and walkers are welcome to join," Abragan said.

Participants can enter one of the seven age categories and the Top 3 from each age division will receive medals. The age categories are as follows: 14 and under, 15 to 19, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60 and above.

Registration fee is $10 per person and all participants will get raffle tickets with the drawing to be held after the race.

"A portion of the proceeds will go to support our April 2019 mission trip to Pohnpei where are going to send a team of youth, young adults, and adults," Abragan stated.

"We hope to inspire healthy living in the community and to share the message that our bodies are gifts from the Lord," Abragan shared. "We also hope to share the message of hope and eternal life found only in Jesus Christ."

Before the race kicks off, Unshakable will be jamming out some tunes starting at 5:20am. Unshakable is a newly established band made up of vocalists and musicians from Grace Christian Assembly.

Abragan also mentioned that Bishop Ferdie Cabiling from the Philippines and nicknamed "running pastor" because of his passion for running and for the Lord, will be among the special guests at the event. Bishop Cabiling is the author of a book entitled *"RUN: Endure the Pain, Keep the Faith, Finish Your Race."* Pastor Mark and Terry Benavente from Guam will also grace tomorrow's race.

The Fun in the Son 5K Fun Run is sponsored by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Sapan, IT&E, Let's Go! Saipan, Saipan Sea Ventures, Taro Sue Corporation, Shirley's Restaurant, Wushin Corporation, Century Tours/iShop, Auto Marine, Saipan Ice & Water, Java Joes, Gold's Gym, D&Q, Micronesian Broker's Incorporated, Taco Bell/KFC, Genpro International, Pacific Subsea Saipan, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, TRAC, and R&M Printers.

For more information, please visit www.5k.lifeinthesonsaipan.org.

Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby rescheduled

Due to the series storms and Typhoon Mangkhut these past months, the 2018 Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby has been rescheduled to Nov. 9 to 11.

At the request of its co-organizers, the 16th Tinian Municipal Council and Tinian Mayor's Office, the Marianas Visitors Authority has agreed to push back the date to accommodate more anglers and give organizers time to clean up access roads to the derby sites that are affected by the recent typhoon.

"We are very excited to be organizing and supporting more events to draw visitors to Tinian, such as the Chief Taga Festival held earlier this month and the upcoming Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby," MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "At the same time, we are sensitive to the reality that Tinian events often require the mobilization of many government offices and personnel, and at this time, those resources have been tied up with recovery from Typhoon Mangkhut and the Chief Taga Festival. The new derby date will give us a chance to regroup. We look forward to welcoming fishermen from Saipan, Rota, Guam, and the Asia-Pacific region to enjoy a great weekend of fishing on Tinian in November."

The designated derby fishing sites for the Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby will be Puntan Diablo, Fleming Point 1, and Fleming Point 2. Registration is $20. Derby orientation will be at 5pm on Nov. 9, followed by the derby that will end at 10am on Nov. 11.

Cash prizes have also been increased for the most variety, biggest fish, and total weight. In the most variety and total weight categories, the MVA will award $500 for first place, $300 for second, and $200 for third. For the biggest fish category, the grand prize will be $1,000, $300 for second, and $200 for third.

For more information visit The Marianas calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1-670-433-9365. ***(PR)***

CNMI

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running against more than 200 competitors will be a good experience for Team Marianas.

"It's a great exposure for our youth athletes and our goal is to finish strong as a team and enjoy the experience," said Sapong, who accompanied the squad in Guam.

Tan, who was the top finisher among the CNMI female runners that joined last year's event, said she eyes to surpass her time in the individual 5K race (23:18.4) in 2017. She and the 11 other members of the team checked the course yesterday afternoon and though the race will still be held at the John F. Kennedy High School grounds in Tumon, there are some changes in the route.

"We checked out the course earlier today (yesterday) and it's slightly different, but it'll be fun. It feels good to be back, since I know how the race would be like and have more experience. This year, there are more SIS runners so I'm happy," said Tan, who dominated the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics/Public School System All Schools Cross Country Series and topped the final race held last Saturday.

The rest of the members of the team also did well in the series of cross country races this season.

Tan and the five other female runners on Team Marianas will start the 5K course at 7:05am, while the boys race will kick off at 6am. For the relay, the race will take place at the Ypao Beach Park tomorrow at 6am.

GCA

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Agape 1 posted a come-from-behind win in the first set, recovering in time behind the flurry of serves from Hannah Yan. The Torchbearers finally grabbed the lead, 21-20, and completed the comeback when GCA 2's serve fell short.

After a pep talk from GCA 2 coach Genesis Prieto, the Eagles shook off their loss, as they focused on the task at hand and floored the Torchbearers in the second set. GCA 2's Vicky Wang and Alayna Howard wore their opponents down with their serves, while Ryan Daproza zipped around the court and swatted multiple loose lobs straight onto their opponents. When it was Daproza's turn to serve, the Eagles' team captain did not disappoint as he delivered eight serves in a row. T.J. Saures then capped the second set off with five consecutive serves.

With both teams on the brink of elimination in the third set, David Zheng, Bobby Bao, and Yan proved to be the catalysts to ACS 1's spirited victory. Zheng and Yan hit consecutive serves, while Bao consistently made the right offensive and defensive plays to hand Agape 1 the deciding win and a finals berth.

In the other semis game, Kat Saures and Soleil Lamar spearheaded GCA 1's win in the opening set with the former delivering seven consecutive overhand serves and the latter launching six straight serves of her own. Mt. Carmel's Gabby San Nicolas and Brandie Matsumoto countered, but still their efforts were not enough to stop the Eagles in the first set.

In the second set, Juruel Magtalas, Eubin Park, and Hye Jin Elliott stepped up in the crucial moments of the game to end Mt. Carmel's finals aspirations.

LOSS

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ed record after cruising past Kanoa in the first game in the boys U18 division.

Sunjoon Tenorio toyed around with the defense of the winless Kanoa after drilling all five goals for the unscathed MP United. He nailed back-to-back goals in a span of a minute (fourth and fifth), had his third in the 54th and the last two in the 62nd and 71st.

Matansa 3, TanHoldings 1

Matansa broke into the win column after downing TanHoldings in the other game in the division.

Louie Calayag, Ronnel Ocanada, and Jether Yobech scored for Matansa in the 47th, 63rd, and 75th minute, respectively, while John Michael Rojas made the lone goal (56th minute) for TanHoldings.

SOUTHERN

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the fourth standoff, 4-4. The scores did not change for a while until Gillian Villagomez broke the tie with her shot in the 78th minute.

However, Paire was denied of its first win and had to settle for another draw when Wally came to Southern United's rescue.

In the other game this week, Kanoa FC earned its first win of the season in the 11 a side competition after shutting down Shirley's FC last Monday, 2-0.

Sharmaine Francisco and Sue Ann Huevos delivered the goals for Kanoa with the former finding the back of the net in the 13th minute and the latter in the 26th.

Kanoa will gun for win No. 2 on Monday when it takes on Southern United, while Shirley's aims to bounce back when it faces Paire on Oct. 24.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	1.000	—
Toronto	1	0	1.000	—
Brooklyn	0	1	.000	1
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1

Southeast Division

Orlando	1	0	1.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	½
Charlotte	0	1	.000	1
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1
Miami	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

Detroit	1	0	1.000	—
Milwaukee	1	0	1.000	—
Indiana	1	0	1.000	—
Chicago	0	0	.000	½
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	1	0	1.000	—
San Antonio	1	0	1.000	—
Memphis	0	1	.000	1
Dallas	0	1	.000	1
Houston	0	1	.000	1

Northwest Division

Denver	1	0	1.000	—
Utah	1	0	1.000	—
Portland	0	0	.000	½
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1
Oklahoma City	0	1	.000	1

Pacific Division

Phoenix	1	0	1.000	—
Golden State	1	0	1.000	—
L.A. Lakers	0	0	.000	½
Sacramento	0	1	.000	1
L.A. Clippers	0	1	.000	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern United hands TanHoldings first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club nosed out TanHoldings, 1-0, in the second girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Marinel Joy Falalimpa made the lone goal in the match, as she found her target in the 45th minute. The close victory was second in four games for Southern United, while TanHoldings absorbed its first loss after winning its first three assignments.

TanHoldings, despite the defeat, is still at the No. 2 spot in the team standings, while Southern United moved to third. Kanoa is ahead of the seven-squad field, as it improved to a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record following a 4-0 triumph over Shirley's FC in the final game last weekend.

Paulynn Joyce Grace delivered a pair of goals for the unbeaten Kanoa, as she scored in the 32nd and 65th minute. Abigail Decena and Sharmaine Francisco also hit the board for the division leaders with their goals in the 18th and 58th minute, respectively.

Meanwhile, the first game in the division had Matansa forcing MP United to a draw, 4-4.

Janah Casarino knocked in the equalizer for Matansa in the 63rd minute and also recorded the three other goals for her team. Her three earlier goals were posted in the ninth, 40th, and 47minute.

While Casarino carried the load for Matansa, MP United had four players contributing to the team's cause. Sisters Francesca and Fiona Bucalig and Stellalou McCallion made it to the board, while the first scorer for MP United was not listed on the official match report.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Southern United Football Club, left, and TanHoldings FC players collide as they go after the ball during the second half of their girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League Standings (As of Oct. 15, 2018)

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

GIRLS U16

TEAMS	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	3	0	0	11	1	10	9
TanHoldings	3	0	1	8	1	7	9
Southern United	2	0	2	11	10	1	6
MP United	1	1	1	11	9	2	4
Shirley's	1	0	2	3	7	-4	3
Paire	1	0	2	1	8	-7	3
Matansa	0	1	3	7	16	-9	1

BOYS U18

MP United	3	0	0	14	1	13	9
TanHoldings	2	0	1	6	5	1	6
Matansa	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3
Kanoa	0	0	3	1	13	-12	0

BOYS U18
MP United 5, Kanoa 0
MP United kept its undefeat-

See LOSS on Page 30

Contrasting wins for McDonald's, CUC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's edged Joeten 2, 81-76, while Commonwealth Utilities Corp. coasted past M&R Contractor, 93-65, in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

McDonald's scored 20-plus points in the first three quarters to offset its fourth-period slowdown and take a 5-point winning margin over Joeten 2. McDonald's now has a 2-0 record to share first place with TanHoldings in Pool A, while Joeten 2 fell to a 1-1 mark.

Jaymark De Guzman had another 30-plus output for McDonald's, making 31. He had 39 in their 111-91 debut win over Best Deal/RNV last weekend. The former Saipan Southern High School standout dropped 12 markers in the first quarter where McDonald's scored 25 points. He also recorded 12 points in the third period for another 25-marker production for McDonald's and adding the team's 20 in the second canto, De Guzman and company entered the fourth with a 71-57 lead.

The 14-point advantage in the final canto gave McDonald's enough cushion despite being held to 10 in the payoff period.

Joeten 2 outgunned McDonald's in the fourth frame after firing 19 points, but the former paid the price for its flat first half where it was limited to 31 points—18 in the first and 13 in the second.

Meanwhile, CUC was all business in all four quarters of its match against M&R for the easy victory.

CUC had 20-plus points in each of the four periods and blew the game wide open in the third with a 24-8 scoring surge, turning a 44-33 halftime edge to a 68-41 spread. Despite the big lead, CUC remained consistent on offense to complete its domination of M&R. CUC notched its first victory in two games, while M&R is still winless after two matches.

Eugene Manglona topscored for CUC with his 28 points, while Mike Surima had 31 on a losing effort for M&R.

First Game

CUC 93 — Manglona 28, Santos 17, Nunez 12, Spaeth 9, Taisacan 7, Nekaifes 5, Pestillos 5, Lieto 2, Darag 2.

M&R Construction 65 — Surima 31, Noel 15, Manuel 7, Buniag 6, Solivo 3, Del Rosario 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 44-33, 68-41, 93-65.

Second Game

McDonald's 81 — De Guzman 31, J. Achas 11, Mi. Achas 10, Macaranas 9, Mc. Achas 7. Misaro 6, Fidelino 5.

Joeten 2 76 — Cruz 19, Agulto 16, Pua 12, William 8, Montoya 8, Camacho 8, Tabora 6.

Scoring by quarters: 25-18, 46-31, 71-57, 81-76.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's' McClain Achas is left open for a point-blank shot during their debut game against Best Deal/RNV in the JP World caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. McDonald's won, 111-91, and made it two in a row after an 81-76 triumph over Joeten 2 last Tuesday.

Ironman 70.3 Saipan registrants jump 50 percent

Next Saturday's Ironman 70.3 Saipan in The Marianas has a 50 percent increase in registrants from last year, showing great growth potential for the world-class race event in this western Pacific archipelago that brands itself as a "sports paradise."

Exactly 281 athletes representing 23 countries and territories have registered for the event, which drew 181 participants during the inaugural race in 2017.

"Ironman is a brand with worldwide recognition, and thanks to advanced and consistent promotions by our partner organizer, Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan, and our overseas offices, we have attracted a strong and diverse representation of athletes for Ironman 70.3 Saipan next weekend," Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said. "This is an accomplishment the entire community can take pride in, and we encourage residents to show their Ironman spirit on race day by cheering for athletes, coming out to the finish line, driving carefully on race morning, and extending the warm island hospitality that The Marianas is known for."

Registered competitors hail from Japan (86), China (44), Guam (32), Republic of Korea (25), USA (19), France (13), Hong Kong (11), Taiwan (10), Australia (8), United Kingdom (8), Singapore (6), the Philippines (5), Spain (3), and Macau (2), while Belgium, Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Monaco, Marshall Islands, and Malaysia are also represented in the Oct. 27 race.

Ironman 70.3 Saipan will offer 30 age qualifying slots for the 2019 Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Nice, France.

An Ironman 70.3 is one of a series of long distance triathlon races organized by the World Triathlon Corporation. Half the length of an Ironman, Ironman 70.3 features a 1.2-mile (1.9K) swim, a 56-mile (90K) bike ride, and a 13.1-mile (21.1K) run.

This year's Ironman 70.3 Saipan will feature a new course with the event beginning with a swim race of two loops in the crystal-clear waters off Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park. AMP will also be the transition site for the three-loop bike route to the quiet nature and historic and scenic sites of Marpi. The mainly flat, two-loop run course follows the western lagoon of the island from Micro Beach to the MVA office in San Jose and back.

"The course location of Ironman 70.3 Saipan is the most beautiful all over the world," said KFC president Kiyozaku Onishi.

Meanwhile, major sponsors of Ironman 70. 3 Saipan include Hyatt Regency Saipan, Powerade/Coca Cola/Foremost, DFS Saipan Limited, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. Supporters include American Memorial Park, Dept. of Public Safety/Boating Safety, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works (Roads and Grounds) Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Hawaiian Rock Products, and MARPAC. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A triathlete cruises along scenic Beach Road during the bike leg of the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan last year.

ERRATUM

Rites of Passage 24 set for Oct. 26

The Rites of Passage 24: Ragin' Rumble will be held at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot in Susupe on Oct. 26, not today as earlier reported. Weigh-in is on Oct. 25 at Salty's.

We apologize for the inadvertent error.

Kershaw dominant, Dodgers near World Series

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

GCA vs Agape in finale

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's David Zheng gets ready to serve during their semis game against Grace Christian Academy 2 in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The stage has been set for the championship showdown between Grace Christian Academy 1 and Agape Christian School 1.

Agape 1 and GCA 1 advanced to the title game in the middle school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League after winning their semis matches yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles took only two sets to beat Mt. Carmel School, 25-13, 25-18, and move into the finals. The Torchbearers, on the other hand, pulled off a three-set victory over GCA 2, 25-21, 12-25, 15-9.

Agape 1 and GCA 1 will battle for the division title on Tuesday at 4:30pm with the Eagles in familiar territory having ruled last year's competition and the Torchbearers securing a spot in the championship game for the first time in the school's history.

"It was a very hard-fought victory. GCA has a history of playing really good volleyball from the middle school level all the way up to the high school level, so to be able to beat their second team today was a great achievement for our kids. I am happy to see that their hard work has been paying off," Agape 1 coach Yang Pang said.

See GCA on Page 30

Southern United holds Paire to draw

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club and Paire FC went back and forth and settled for a draw, 5-5, during their game in the 2018 Dove Fall Women's League last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

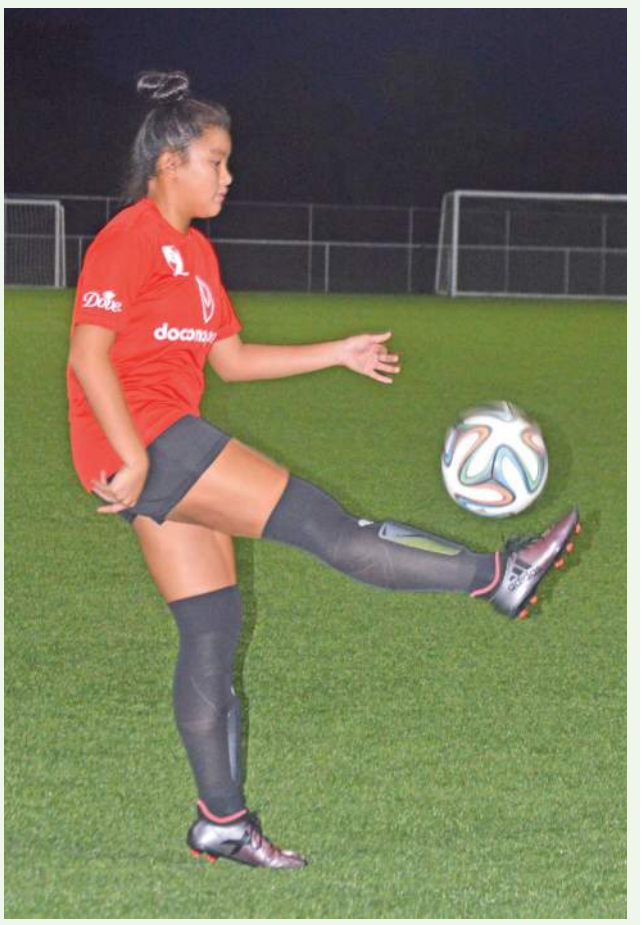
CNMI Women's National Team member Britanny Wally scored four goals for Southern United, including the game-tying one in the 82nd minute. She earlier made the first goal in the match in the 11th minute, while Tasilyn Ramon knocked in the equalizer for Paire in the 30th.

Another conversion from Wally handed the lead back to Southern United in the 34th minute, but Paire forced the second deadlock with Jeraldine Castillo finding the back of the net a minute before the 45-minute first half ended.

In the second half, it was still Wally who scored first for Southern United, as she got the hat trick in the 52nd minute to put her team on the driver's seat anew, 3-2. However, Guine Borja countered eight minutes later to knot the count and then earned her second goal in the 62nd minute to give Paire the upper hand, 4-3.

Paire's hold to the lead did not last long though, as Katrina Costales hit the board in the 66th minute to force

See SOUTHERN on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire Football Club's Gillian Villagomez warms up before their game against Southern United FC in the 2018 Dove Fall Women's League last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

2018 Dove Fall Women's League
11 v 11 Competitive

Teams	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	1	1	0	7	4	3	4
Shirley's	1	0	1	5	3	2	3
Paire	0	2	0	9	9	0	2

CNMI runners all set for AsPac race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Marianas left for Guam yesterday morning to compete in the 2018 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships.

The squad is made up Saipan International School's Tania Tan, Anika Snyder, Stella McCallion, Malika Miyawaki, and Kuu Nishimura, Agape Christian School's Kaiping Wang, Lue Xiong, and Chenxuan Yang, Marianas High School's Jerlyn Castillo, Therize Millare, and Ken Song, and Tinian High School's Tyler Santos.

Northern Marianas Athletics

The 12 runners are among the 270 high schools students that will race in the individual event today and in the team competition tomorrow. They will be up against students from Guam, Japan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

Robin Sapong, general secretary of Northern Marianas Athletics, which was responsible for sending the 12 runners to the regional race, said

See CNMI on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team Marianas member pose for a group photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday before heading to Guam to race in the 2018 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships.